

Thursday, August 8, 1957

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Second Series

Volume IV, 1957

(27th July to 8th August, 1957)



SECOND SESSION, 1957

(Vol. IV Contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

CONTENTS

[Second Series, Volume IV—27th July to 8th August, 1957]

COLUMNS

No. 11—Saturday, 27th July, 1957.

Business of the House	5471—73
Question of Privilege	5471—73
Panel of Chairmen	5520
Demands for Grants—	5475—5642
Ministry of Health—	5475—5566
Ministry of Community Development	5567—5642
Daily Digest	5643—44

No. 12—Monday, 29th July, 1957.

Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 412 to 428 and 430 to 432	5645—82
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 409 to 411, 429, 433 to 442, 444 and 445	5682—92
Unstarred Questions Nos. 301 to 316 and 318 to 339	5692—5711
Motion for adjournment—	
Rise in Jamuna level	5711-12
Papers laid on the Table—	5712-13
Committee on Absence of Members—First Report	5714
Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—	
Agreement between the Bombay Dock Workers and the Government	5714
Election to Committees—	
(1) Indian Central Arecanut Committee	5714-15
(2) Indian Lac Cess Committee	5715
Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill— Introduced	5716
Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	5716
Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Bill—Introduced	5716-17
Inter-State Corporation Bill—Introduced	5717
Demands for Grants—	5717—5854
Ministry of Community Development	5717—5803
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	5803—54
Daily Digest	5855—60

No. 13—Tuesday, 30th July, 1957.

Members sworn	5861
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 447, 449 to 451, 453, 455 to 460, 463 to 466, 468 to 471, 473 and 474	5861—97
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 446, 448, 452, 454, 461, 462, 467, 472 and 475 to 485	5897—5907
Unstarred Questions Nos. 340 to 342 and 344 to 377	5907—28
Papers laid on the Table—	5928
Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—	
Fall in production of certain mills and the effects thereof	5929-30
Demands for Grants—	
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	5930—6094
Daily Digest	6095—98

No. 14—Wednesday, 31st July, 1957.**Oral Answers to Questions—**

Starred Questions Nos. 486 to 488, 507, 489 to 492, 494 to 496, 499, 501 to 504, 506, 509 and 512 to 514 6099—6136

Short Notice Question No. 1 6136—38

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 493, 497, 498, 500, 505, 508, 510, 515 and 518 to 529 6138—49

Unstarred Questions Nos. 378 to 393, 395 to 404 and 406 to 416. 6149—69

Motion for Adjournment—

Strike of municipal workers and sweepers in New Delhi 6169—73

Paper laid on the Table

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—

Collision of an engine with a goods train 6173—75

Leave of Absence

Election to Committees—

(1) Coffee Board 6176

(2) Rubber Board 6177

Demands for Grants—

Ministry of Irrigation and Power 6177—6302

Daily Digest

6303—06

No. 15—Thursday, 1st August, 1957.**Member sworn**

6307

Oral Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 530, 532, 567, 533 to 543, 546, 547, 544, 545 and 548 6307—42

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 549 to 565, 568 and 569 6342—53

Unstarred Questions Nos. 417 to 442 6353—69

Motions for Adjournment and Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—

Sweepers' strike in Delhi and Police firing 6370—93

Demands for Grants—

Ministry of Irrigation and Power 6393—6510

Daily Digest

6511—14

No. 16—Friday, 2nd August, 1957.**Oral Answers to Questions—**

Starred Questions Nos. 570 to 573 and 575 to 582. 6515—46

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 574, 583 to 606. 6546—60

Unstarred Questions Nos. 443 to 467 6560—71

Papers laid on the Table

Business Advisory Committee—Fifth Report 6571—72

Calling Attention to a Matter of Urgent Public Importance—

Explosion of a railway wagon at Asansol 6572—74

Point of Information 6574—6655

Demands for Grants—

Ministry of Law 6574—6610

Ministry of Transport and Communications 6610—55

Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions—Third Report 6655

Resolution re Discontinuance of grant of scholarships to students on community basis 6656—6702

(iii)

	Columns
Resolution re Appointment of a committee to examine the Regional Disparity Average per capita income	6702—16
Daily Digest	6717—20
No. 17—Saturday, 3rd August, 1957	
Motions for Adjournment—	
Sweepers' strike in Delhi and Police Firing	6721—23, 6863—6928
Calling attention to matter of Urgent Public Importance—	
Sweepers strike in Delhi and Police Firing	6723—24
Business of the House	6724
Correction of Answer to Starred Question No. 636	6724—25
Statement re appointment of a Commission of Enquiry re Emoluments and Conditions of Service of Central Government Employees	6725—26
Essential Services Maintenance Bill—	
Introduced	6726—48
Demands for Grants—	
Ministry of Transport and Communications	6748—6863
Paper laid on the Table	6851
Business Advisory Committee—	
Sixth Report	6863—65
Daily Digest	6929—30
No. 18—Monday, 5th August, 1957	
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 607 to 616, 619, 620, 622 to 626, 628 and 629	6931—69
Short Notice Question No. 2	6969—74
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 617, 618, 621, 627, 630 to 635, 635-A, 636 to 649	6974—87
Unstarred Questions Nos. 468 to 472, 474 to 479, 481 to 489, 491 and 492	6987—7002
Papers laid on the Table	7002—05
Business Advisory Committee—	
Fifth Report	7005
Essential Services Maintenance Bill—	
Motion to consider	7006—7182
Daily Digest	7183—86
No. 19—Tuesday, 6th August, 1957	
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 650 to 653, 655 to 663, 665, 666, 668 and 669	7187—7222
Short Notice Question No. 5	7222
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 654, 664, 667, 670 to 691, 693, 694, 694-A, 695 to 697 and 531	7222—38
Unstarred Questions Nos. 493 to 500 and 502 to 525	7239—57
Short Notice Questions Nos. 3 and 4	7257—58
Papers laid on the Table	7258—59
Business of the House	7259—62
Essential Services Maintenance Bill—	
Clauses 2 to 8 and 1	7260—7405
Motion to pass	7405—19
Demands for Grants—	
Ministry of Transport and Communications	7419—54
Daily Digest	7455—60

No. 30—Thursday, 8th August, 1957

Oral Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 698 to 702, 729, 704, 705 and 707 to 717	7461—83
Short Notice Question No. 6	7494—96

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 703, 706, 718 to 728 and 730 to 739	7496—7509
Unstarred Questions Nos. 526 to 528, 530 to 560 and 562 to 569	7509—30
Statement <i>re</i> impending stoppages of work in certain essential services	7530—32
Papers laid on the Table	7533

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—

<i>Re</i> : termination of Services of Inspectors of Life Insurance Corporation	7534—35
Demands for Grants	7535—7686
Ministry of Transport and Communications	7535—7605
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	7609—86
Statement <i>re</i> : withdrawal of proposed strike by P. & T. employees	7636—86
Daily Digest	7687—90

N.B.—The sign + above a name of a Member on Questions, which were orally answered, indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

LOK SABHA

7461

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 8th August, 1957.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Pakistan Financial Issues

†
*698. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Kalika Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 30 on the 26th March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether any date has since been fixed for the meeting of the Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan to resolve the outstanding financial issues between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the date?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how many outstanding financial issues we had with the Pakistan Government in 1947, and how many of them have been settled up to this time?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is very difficult for me at the present moment to say what was the total number of financial issues and how many were settled, but so far I think we have roughly 20 to 21 issues unsettled, and they are fairly big issues.

7462

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the total value of these 21 issues that we have outstanding so far as the Pakistan Government is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Again I have to do some arithmetic by adding it all up, but particularly there is a big sum of Rs 300 crores and odd of the over-all partition settlement due to us from Pakistan, apart from quite a number of other items, and so far as Pakistan's claim on us is concerned, they say that the divisible assets of the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank have not been completely transferred to them, and they claim something like Rs 48 or Rs 49 crores.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether Pakistan is paying interest towards this large amount that is due to us?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is common knowledge that no payment is received from Pakistan.

Shri Heda: How do the Government explain their position in view of the fact that Pakistan had been consistently evading a solution of these disputes and the Government of India are not taking recourse to the World Court?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My knowledge of international law is somewhat rusty, and I do not know whether for a fiduciary claim we can go to the World Court. I will have to get some verification from my adviser the Law Minister on that point, but so far as what we are doing for the settlement of these issues is concerned, hon Members again know that the relationship between the two countries today is such that moral

persuasion has no place in matters of this nature

Shri Achar: What are the main items constituting the Rs 300 crores?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Rs 300 crores is the over-all partition settlement between the two countries, that is to say they have with them assets of that category which are not balanced by assets in India. Therefore, they owe us about Rs 300 and odd crores

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the last meeting between the Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan was held and what efforts have been made to have another meeting, and whether the fault has been on our side that we have not had a meeting?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would draw the attention of the House and ask my hon friend to recollect the supplementary question which he put to my distinguished predecessor on the 27th July, 1955. The position remains much the same. In order to arrange a meeting, two people must come together. In this case Barkis is willing, but I am afraid Peggotty will not play up

Panna Diamond Mines

†
*699. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the company which operated the Panna Diamond Mines ceased its operations since the nationalization announcement made on the 9th April, 1956,

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers of the Mines are sitting idle for lack of work;

(c) when the procedure relating to nationalization will be completed; and

(d) whether the quantum of compensation to the company has been decided?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The operations of the Company were undoubtedly affected by the nationalization announcement, but even earlier financial difficulties had rendered it necessary for the Company considerably to reduce its scale of operations. These difficulties have continued to multiply and have resulted in the laying off of surplus labour

(c) and (d) If agreement is not reached in the negotiations that are proceeding Government intends to promote legislation to acquire the business of the Company which will contain a provision defining the principles on which compensation is to be assessed

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of workers who are lying idle because of this confusion?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are three or four concessions. The Panna Diamond Mining Syndicate is the only active holders which were doing something before these announcements were made

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I wanted to know how many workers are going without any work because of this announcement of the Government and the consequent suspension of work on the part of that company.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Part of the working was going on and is still, I am told, going on, but I do not know just now the exact number who are idle.

श्री ज० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जो कम्पेंशन दिया जा रहा है वह उस कम्पनी के प्लांट और मैशिनरी के वेल्यूएशन से कहीं ज्यादा है, और क्या यह सब है कि जो कम्पेंशन दिया जा रहा है उसका एवाउंट बढ़ाया जावेगा ?

श्री के० दे० बालवीर : कम्पेंशन की बिकदार का अभी कोई निश्चय नहीं हुआ है ।

लेकिन यह बात सही है कि जो कम्प्लेक्सन पन्ना डायमंड सिंडीकेट द्वारा मांगा जा रहा है उसको गवर्नमेंट सरकार से ज्यादा समझती है और वह कोशिश कर रही है कि मुनासिब कम्प्लेक्सन तै हो जाये ।

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether any mining expert's collaboration is being sought by the Government and whether any of them have offered themselves to do the service?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. There are two or three advisers whose opinion was sought and we have got reports also, and all those reports have been considered and are still being considered.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: These protracted negotiations have been going on for well over a year, but there is need for working these mines in view of our requirements of industrial diamonds. So, when can we expect these negotiations to come to an end.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In a way no time has been lost because even after negotiations had been successfully completed a lot of detailed prospecting was needed to find out exactly the quantum of investment that will be economically feasible for the exploitation of the Panna diamond mines. We did not stop for the detailed prospecting and it has been going on. Together with it, some diamond also is being exploited. It is not of much consequence from the point of large-scale exploitation, but as I said, both the items of the programme, that is negotiation and detailed prospecting are going on simultaneously. So there is no loss of time.

Shri Kashiwal: Probably the hon. Minister is aware that before this question of nationalisation was taken up a Russian team of investigators was invited by the company to go into the whole matter. May I know whether these experts mentioned by the hon. Minister now are the same

Russian team of investigators or some other team?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No Russian diamond mining experts as such were invited either by the Syndicate or by the Government from the USSR to carry on investigations, but certain Russian geologists were available to the private company who gave their opinion on the data produced by the company. That was not necessarily to be accepted by the Government. We got it checked up and there was some amount of difference on the opinion expressed by the Russians. Now there is not much of a difference, and we hope that as soon as the negotiations are concluded, we shall start actively working the mines.

Fiscal Monopolies

*700. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 117 on the 18th July, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any decision for making an expert enquiry into the possibilities of setting up fiscal monopolies with a view to augmenting public revenues has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The matter had been examined at an official level and Government do not feel that there is a *prima facie* case at the present moment for instituting an expert enquiry into the possibilities of setting up fiscal monopolies.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the names of the articles in relation to which this question was examined by the department?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The Taxation Enquiry Commission recommended that tobacco, matches and salt should be selected for fiscal monopoly and these have been examined at the official level.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the important considerations that led to this decision?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The whole question of augmenting public revenues through fiscal monopolies has assumed a different complexion altogether, because, since the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission about three years ago, the excise duties on a number of commodities have gone up. And it is now evident or rather proved that it is possible to raise the revenue from excise duty substantially. Apart from this, there are administrative complications in taking over a large number of items from private business into the public sector. There are other considerations also. I think due to these considerations, the committee came to the conclusion that there was no *prima facie* case for an enquiry of this nature.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: In view of the fact that excise duty is levied on salt, will Government consider the necessity of having fiscal monopoly in this respect?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Even this matter has been under examination for a long time. But there is one particular fact connected with salt, that is to say, that if we take up monopoly distribution, it might quite conceivably be mentioned by people that it is an indirect method of levying a duty on salt. Personally, I think it is feasible to work salt as a State monopoly, but I think we have to consider the other matters that would arise from that before we take up a decision.

The door is not closed in regard to this matter. We have, as hon. Members know, a State Trading Corporation. The accusation made against the State Trading Corporation is that it is becoming a monopoly. My hon. friend opposite, Shri M. R. Masani, is one of those vigorous advocates against State capitalism, and fiscal monopolies are naked forms of State capitalism. Of course, they are intended to produce revenue, but there

are other matters which will have to be taken into consideration. It does not mean that Government's mind is sealed against this idea. But the matter must be further examined; maybe, salt might be brought under Government control not merely for the purpose of producing more revenue but also on grounds of the health of the people, it is quite likely. And this question will duly be considered at the appropriate time.

Pay Scales Revision

*701. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the LDCs in the Defence Services have been benefited by the revised Pay Scales introduced for the Central Secretariat personnel?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): Yes, Sir.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the LDCs in the Defence Services were given the revised pay scales simultaneously with the Central Secretariat employees, or after a couple of months?

Shri Raghuramiah: In the case of clerks in the Central Secretariat, the revised scales came into operation with effect from 1st April, 1956. But in the case of clerks paid out of the Defence Estimates, it came into effect from 1st August, 1956.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know the reasons for the delay in effecting the revised scales? Was it that there was no demand from the LDCs in the Defence Services?

Shri Raghuramiah: First of all, the decision was taken only in respect of clerks in the Central Secretariat and offices included in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service Scheme. Later on, representations were received, and Government extended these increased scales of pay to all clerks; and in pursuance of that decision, it was extended to clerks paid out of Defence Estimates. But the decision of Government then was that it should come into effect from 1st August, 1956.

because it was only later that a decision had been taken about these other categories.

I may mention that this new scale is an improvement over the original scale which was prescribed in the light of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The then scale was Rs. 55—130, but the revised scale goes beyond that, and it prescribes Rs. 60—130

Deferred Payment Exchange Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Q No. 702.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I request that Q. No. 729 also may be taken up along with this, since both the questions relate to the same subject, namely deferred payments?

Mr. Speaker: Is the Minister willing to answer both together?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Yes, Sir

*702. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the progress made in the Deferred Payments Exchange Guarantee Scheme, and

(b) the estimate of increase in the price of machinery and other capital goods as a result of deferred payments?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) and (b) Since deferred payment terms for a number of projects are still under discussion, it is not possible now either to indicate the extent of progress made in this scheme or to calculate the increase in price due to such arrangements; it is however expected to be of the order of 6 per cent on average

The answer to Question No. 729, stands in the name of hon. colleague, Shri B R Bhagat. With your permission I would like to read out that answer.

Imports on Deferred Payments

↑
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
*729. Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Nagi Reddy:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in achieving facilities for deferred payments in the matter of imports;

(b) the names of the countries that have agreed to help India; and

(c) the countries with whom negotiations are in progress?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government have under consideration various measures for facilitating import of capital goods on deferred payment basis, including exemption from income-tax, in approved cases, on interest payments on the credits.

(b) and (c). No negotiations are being carried on with the Government of any foreign country other than France for the supply of capital goods on long-term credit. The discussions with the French Government are still in progress

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Some time back, in reply to one of my supplementary questions, Government announced that for standing guarantee for these deferred payments, the institution of a foreign exchange fund under that scheme was under consideration. May I know what progress has been made in regard to that, and if there has been a delay, the main reasons for the delay?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think our preparations in that regard are almost complete. But that does not mean the fund will be constituted, because the money for the fund will have to be subscribed to by those people who require guarantees; I do not know how many people would require guarantees, and even so, how many such people would be prepared to put down the cash for the purpose of obtaining the guarantee.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Is it not a fact that even now, in regard to the negotiations that are in progress about deferred payments, Government act as the guarantor in respect of almost all the negotiations with other countries, whether they be in the private sector or on a Government-to-Government basis, and if so, what special difficulties have come in the way of Government in respect of this fund?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second does not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Government are now approaching different countries for giving facilities for deferred payments. May I know why this difficulty of foreign exchange was not realised about a year or two years ago?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is true that this question of an acute shortage of foreign exchange was not realised two years back, nor was it at that time realised that private import of capital goods would be of the magnitude that it was during the last eighteen months. In fact, there has been a phenomenal increase in the import of capital goods on private account, and to some extent, on public account as well during this period. These factors were not then adequately realised.

Shri Ranga: Why is it that these negotiations have not been instituted with other countries? We came to know, and it was published in the papers also, that Germany was also considering the advisability of extending this facility. Are any efforts going to be made or are they being made to negotiate with Germany also, so that our importers would be helped?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the present moment, the German Government is not prepared to help its exporters with any form of credit or credit guarantee for the purpose of providing capital goods for this or for any other country.

Shri Damani: May I know which industry will be given priority for importing capital goods under this deferred payments scheme?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is a matter to be determined by the Commerce and Industry Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether the import of machinery for co-operative sugar factories is also arranged on a deferred payment basis?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have made some arrangement so far, and I cannot say whether any extension of that scheme would be possible in the future.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In reply to one of my questions, the Minister stated that in regard to the establishment of a foreign exchange fund for the deferred payment guarantee scheme, the arrangements were almost complete. May I have an idea of the total working capital of the fund, and whether Government will charge any maintenance charges for keeping that fund, and, if so, what they would be?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There will be no capital, so to say, for that fund, because the accrual in the fund would depend upon the number of people who approach the Reserve Bank for the guarantee and, therefore, will deposit money there. The question of any interest to be paid in respect of those deposits will have to be determined by the Reserve Bank.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We read in the papers, and a little indication of it was also given by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, that some negotiations about deferred payment imports are going on with Japan. As Japan has come to be one of the main capital goods producing countries, may I know in what way these negotiations are being carried on and whether there are any expectations about getting some capital goods from Japan, and if so, of what kind?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The stage of the negotiations is such that I am not able to add materially to the knowledge of my hon friend in this respect.

Remittance of Profits

+
*704. { **Shri M. E. Krishna:**
 Shri Sadhan Gupta:
 Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps, if any taken, to minimise loss of foreign exchange through remittances abroad by foreign firms in India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): If the question is intended to elicit an answer about unauthorised remittances from India to foreign countries I would say we have complete control over all transactions that take place through traditional channels

Shri V. P. Nayar: Earlier this session, I was told that the Finance Ministry or the Reserve Bank did not keep a separate account of the remittance of profits firm-wise. I want to know what will be the total annual remittance of profits by foreign firms operating in India

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: During the year 1956-57, it was of the order of Rs 27 odd crores

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know why it is not possible for either the Reserve Bank or the Finance Ministry to keep separate accounts of various firms in regard to the foreign exchange which they have to ask for for remittance of profits?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter of policy of the various institutions that keep accounts not to divulge individual transactions, but they are always prepared to give the collective transactions to any person who is entitled to ask questions and is entitled to receive an answer

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the amount of profit remitted by firms of British origin?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As regards U.K., it would be Rs 22.4 crores

Shri Ranga: What is the position in regard to the import of books as well as journals from abroad for which rupee payments are advertised to be paid to their agents here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if my hon friend wants to know about the procedure

Shri Ranga: Are we making remittances in foreign exchange in any indirect way?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Actually, so far as books are concerned, until 30th June, it was on the OGL. So anybody was free to import books as he liked and the Reserve Bank had to provide the exchange, if a person wanted to import books. It may be that in certain cases, people did not approach the Reserve Bank, but got the books on consignment and the shipper obtained payment in rupees. It is likely, but this is a matter about which I have no information now. If the hon Member puts down a question, I shall try to gather the information from the Reserve Bank and the appropriate Ministry and give it

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: What is the total amount of profits remitted out of the tea industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice

Shri Joachim Alva: In view of the difficulties experienced by Government, has the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta, offered any assistance to Government to ease the situation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We do not go and approach chambers of commerce for assistance whatever might be our difficulties

Shri Joachim Alva: They have voluntarily offered

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No offer is invited, no offer is accepted, and I suppose, no offer will be made

Shri B. S. Murthy: The hon Minister mention about traditional channels. Have Government any machinery to find out other remittances made not through the proper and traditional channels, but untraditional channels?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if the hon. Member knows of the existence of a person called 'Pick' who seems to be extremely popular in India today. He has got a very imaginative brain. He oftentimes makes estimates of black money movements in the exchange world. My hon. friend may look into 'Pick's' report, but he will not be any the wiser in regard to the facts of the case.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of our present foreign exchange position and also our fairly cordial relations with foreign investors in India, may I know if Government is contemplating a temporary moratorium on the remittance of profits from this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This Government is not contemplating any deviation from accepted international standards of business morality.

Shri Heda: May I know what percentage of the total profits did we authorise them to take to foreign countries, and if any portion of capital has also allowed to be taken out last year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not been able to hear the question. Probably I am getting deaf.

Mr. Speaker: What is the percentage of the profits remitted last year, and if any money on capital account was also remitted?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as remittances on capital account are concerned, I have to ask for notice. But we make an evaluation periodically. The Reserve Bank had made an evaluation in respect of the five years ended 1952-53. I believe they have made a further evaluation recently. I can give very broadly the position in regard to the second evaluation. There has been an increase of about Rs. 50 and odd crores—nearly Rs. 53 crores—of foreign assets in this country, and a large portion of it has been pumping in of money by way of reserves. There has also been

a certain amount of new capital coming, perhaps from the oil companies. But on the whole, over a period of, say, five years, I think we are breaking even in regard to the outflow and inflow.

Expansion of Manipur Rifles

*705. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister for Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme for expansion of the Manipur Rifles to a Battalion strength; and

(b) when it is going to be implemented?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise

Shri L. Achaw Singh: What is the existing strength of the Manipur Rifles and how many amongst the officers and men are locally recruited?

Shri Datar: Government have adequate strength at their disposal

Smuggling

*707. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many smuggling cases were detected during the last 3 months from foreign ships berthing at Indian harbours and ports?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The total number of smuggling cases detected by the Customs authorities during the 3 months (April, May and June, 1957) from foreign ships berthing at Indian harbours and ports was 419.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : तीन महीने के अन्दर चार सौ से ऊपर केसिस घापने कारेन सिन्ध पर डिटेक्ट किये । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केसिस की संख्या इतनी अधिक होने की वजह से क्या घापने कोई स्पेशल कारेवाई की जा करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री व० रा० भगत : सभी उचित कार्रवाई की गई है और की जा रही है और जो कार्रवाई करना जरूरी समझा जाता है उसे किया जाता है।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केसिस को इसकी अधिक संख्या को देखते हुए क्या कोई विशेष कार्रवाई की गई है यदि हाँ, तो वह क्या कार्रवाई है ?

Mr. Speaker: Unless, there is anything confidential or secret in this matter, and disclosure of the methods will prevent the finding out of this smuggling, the hon. Minister must take the House into confidence and give the broad outlines of the steps that are being taken to detect 419 cases in three months.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Sir, the number of steps that we have taken are the following:

Customs examination of the passengers is undertaken at the customs station and airport;

all cargo imported and exported by air or sea in and out of India are subjected to customs examination;

then, we have organised a special customs intelligence.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इन कार्रवाई के सिवाय क्या कोई कार्यवाही की गई है ? क्या उन शिपर्स से कहा गया है कि इस प्रकार की स्मगलिंग उनके जहाजों पर होती है और उन कार्रवाई शिपमोनों के सिवाय कोई कार्यवाही गवर्नमेंट करने का इरादा रखती है ?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I do not think the law will permit us to vicariously punish somebody else who has no knowledge of the offence. After all, it is a legal matter; it is not a thing which we can administratively decide who is the culprit and inflict the punishment.

Shri Kashiwal: The hon. Deputy Minister said that about 419 cases of

smuggling have been there. May I know what were the kinds of goods that were smuggled?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Gold, silver, jewellery, currency and opium and some other goods.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know how without the connivance of the foreign shippers such smuggling on a large scale is possible? And, if Government feel that there must be some sort of connivance, what is the hesitation in writing to the various Governments to take some steps so that these foreign shippers may not smuggle goods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend is not quite correct. It may be that it is a tramp steamer which has no particular background or it may be that the Captain of some tramp steamer that might connive at and do something of this nature. But, by and large, I do not think reputable shipping lines connive at this kind of thing because they know that they will lose business and they will lose also the privileges they enjoy under the various Conference Regulations. So, I think, it would not be a correct or even a charitable assumption to make that the shipping companies are behind the smuggling and they choose India as being a fertile spot for their activities. Very largely, it is the individuals who are employed in the ships, without the knowledge of any of the authorities, that indulge in this matter.

Stainless Steel

*708. Shri Wodeyar: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and the value of stainless steel imported into India during 1956-57; and

(b) whether there are any stainless steel factories in India at present?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 6,311 tons, value Rs. 3,93,19,635.

(b) There is at present no factory manufacturing stainless steel in India

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether Government are contemplating the manufacture of stainless steel in the country and, if so, what measures have been taken so far?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir It is the intention of the Government to set up manufacturing capacity for stainless steel and other special alloys in the country. Some preliminary project reports have already been obtained

Shri Wodeyar: Is it a fact that the proposal is to start the manufacture of stainless steel in the factory at Bhadravati in the Mysore State?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Some enquiry was made about the possibility of manufacturing it at the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works, but some other proposals also are under consideration

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that this is not a material of strategic importance or of substantial necessity here in this country and in view also of the existence of so many other industries dealing with brass and bronze utensils and so on, would Government consider the advisability of stopping these imports until we are in a position to produce them ourselves?

Sardar Swaran Singh: For the information of the hon Member, I might point out that it is not only for the manufacture of utensils and the like that stainless steel is used. It is a very important alloy which is used for various industrial purposes also. But we will examine this and ensure that such quantities of it may be curtailed as we can reasonably do without hitting the industry in the line

Prohibition

*769. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing the number of prosecutions for

infringement of prohibition since its enforcement in Delhi under the following charges

- (i) infringement of time limit by dealers and hostellers;
- (ii) drinking on dry days;
- (iii) illicit distillation;
- (iv) other charges?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 84]

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: In the statement it is given that 446 cases were lodged. May I know the nature of the cases and also how many of them were punished?

Shri Datar: I have not got the details here, but they are excise offences

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: In the categories 1, 2 and 3, no offence is committed. Under 4, there are 446. May I know what are these cases?

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member did not ask for that. If he had asked for the details I would have put it as an unstarred question

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: He has given 446 cases. What are the charges?

Mr. Speaker: If details are asked, it could not have been a starred question. I would have disallowed it and put it as an unstarred question. We could not have the details of all the 446 cases here

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether, as a result of the prohibition programme in Delhi there has been an increase in illegal trade by bootleggers and others in liquor and whether Government are aware of it and are taking some effective steps for checking it?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Yes; a special squad has been appointed for this

purpose. There has, probably, been an increase because whenever attempts are made to restrict the use of any commodity, then alone the occasion arises for illicit traffic. So, so long as liquor could be very easily had, it was easier to get it in a legitimate way. So, presumably, there has been an increase. Special steps have been taken in order to guard against such abuses getting worse.

Shri Mahanty: May I know whether the offences are on the increase or on the decrease and whether the penal measures to enforce prohibition has proved a success?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Excise offences have increased; that is, more men have been offending than it used to be in the past.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the sale of foreign liquor has gone down since the introduction of symbolic restrictions?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The restrictions are not symbolic. Whether it has gone down or not can be known only at the end of the year.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: May I know what steps, if any, Government have taken to enlist public co-operation in dealing with crimes against prohibition?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government welcome public co-operation and expect co-operation from every person who is interested in temperance.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I know that is the general position of Government. But I want to know whether Government are trying to make any deliberate and organised effort to enlist public co-operation. Have the Government taken the initiative on their own?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government has taken the initiative and would welcome public co-operation, and will be prepared to consider any suggestion that hon. Members may have to make in this connection.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Have they been considering the desirability of removing the anomaly of having dry days during the rains?

Kerala Education Bill

+
*710. { **Shri Radha Raman.**
 Shri Maniyangadan:
 Shri Siddiah:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Education Bill 1957 authorising Government to take over schools was approved by the Government of India; and

(b) if not, whether any communication in this respect was addressed to Kerala Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Normally State Governments consult the Government of India on all Bill which under the provisions of the Constitution have to be reserved for the consideration of the President. The Kerala Education Bill contained provisions for taking over the management and acquisition of aided and recognised schools and payment of compensation. The Kerala Government, accordingly, consulted the Government of India on the provisions of the draft Bill and the views of the Government of India were communicated to them.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether, in view of the controversy which is appearing in the Press as well as in the public with regard to this Bill between the Centre and the Government of Kerala, such communications as are exchanged will be laid before the House?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I have written to the Chief Minister of Kerala about this, and if he agrees I might place the papers on the Table, but I would not do so except with his consent.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government is aware of

the unfavourable reaction this Bill has avoked in the country as it goes against the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution to own private schools and, if so, has the Government advised the Kerala Government not to proceed with it?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The Government has expressed its views and communicated them to the Kerala Government.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether the Government has advised the Kerala Education Minister to displace private agencies in the field of education and to deny them their right of appeal from executive orders asking them to hand over the institutions?

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered it. There is no advice of that kind; they only wrote to them.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Even if the Government has done that, it would not like to say so.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Is it not a fact that the Kerala Government has already accepted certain suggestions made by the Government of India regarding the question of compensation while taking over the schools in Kerala?

Pandit G. B. Pant: They have accepted some of our suggestions, but not all.

Shri Mahanty: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state in broad outlines what were the views, offered to the Government of Kerala, more especially in cases where they relate to the controversial aspects of the Bill?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Under rule 42 a question may be asked regarding communications between a State Government and the Central Government as to matters of fact. Here a question is asked about details of the communication which, I submit, is not allowed under the rule.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I think Shri Mahanty wants to know if any

advice was given to the Kerala Government regarding the controversial point.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Let the point of order be decided first.

Mr. Speaker: The rule is this:

"no question shall be asked except as to matters of fact, and the answer shall be confined to a statement of fact"

The fact is that they have given an advice or suggestion.

Shri Easwara Iyer: Sir, I refer you to rule 41(1) which says:

"Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2), a question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public importance within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed"

Then, sub-clause (xx) of 41(2) says:

"it shall not ask for information regarding Cabinet discussions, or advice given to the President in relation to any matter in respect of which there is a constitutional, statutory or conventional obligation not to disclose information"

These may be Cabinet discussions

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not a Cabinet discussion. It is only an advice or suggestion given by the Central Government to the State Government. So far as this matter is concerned, it does not appear to come under the mischief of any of these rules. But I will leave it to the hon. Minister to decide the matters which he may disclose or may not disclose.

Pandit G. B. Pant: As I said, we have sent our views to the Kerala Government and some of our suggestions have been accepted but not all. I am not prepared to give in detail what our advice was, what they have accepted, or what they have rejected or found difficult to accept.

Shri Punneose: Sir,...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We will go to the next question. I thought

what the hon. Members wanted has been given by the hon. Minister.

Shri Punnoose: I want to put only one question.

Mr. Speaker: I thought Members wanted to see that the answers or suggestions are not disclosed to the House; that is what the hon. Minister has done. We will go to the next question.

Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur

*711. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether some buildings and materials in Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur were damaged as a result of the storm which took place on the 1st June, 1957; and

(b) whether any inquiry was instituted to assess the loss?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the actual amount sanctioned for the reconstruction of the damaged buildings?

Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad: About Rs. 6 lakhs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether construction work is being carried out by M.E.S. Departmental labour or contractors?

Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad: Some by departmental labour and some by contractors.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What portion?

Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad: 26 of the sheds were repaired by engineer troops, 86 by departmentally employed civilian labourers and 52 by civilian contractors.

Report on Rural Institutes

*712. **Shri Mohan Swarup:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Louis Smith, Ford Foundation Consultant on Rural Edu-

cation has submitted to Government any report on his impressions of Rural Institutes in India; and

(b) if so, the main features of the report?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 95.]

Shri Mohan Swarup: May I know the main features of that?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The statement gives all the main features.

Shri Mohan Swarup: Can they not be disclosed?

Mr. Speaker: The statement is laid on the Table of the House. It is here. The hon. Member may look into it. It has become public property now.

Shri Mohan Swarup: May I know whether the Government has any intention to implement that scheme?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will read that scheme and then ask them.

Taxation Reform

*713. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint a Committee to study State and local finances and recommend structural modifications in them in the light of the needs of finance for development?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The question of arranging for a closer study of State and local finances in the context of the developmental needs of the country has been thought over in the Finance Ministry from time to time, but no decision has yet been taken to appoint a Committee for this purpose.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know when the decision is likely to be taken to appoint the committee?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We have not thought over this matter and, therefore, this question does not arise.

Shri Ranga: Is there a need for such a thing, in view of the fact that the Taxation Inquiry Commission has already discussed this matter and made recommendations?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The hon Member only supplements the answer that I have given

Expansion of Technical Education in States

*714. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing

(a) whether scheme for expansion of facilities for technical education in institutions in different State has been formulated,

(b) if so, how much the new scheme will cost and the names of the institutions with their location which will be expanded or established, and

(c) the major branches of the technical education in which education will be imparted?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (**Shri M. M. Das**): (a) to (c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 96]

श्री गणपति राम इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि देश में टेक्निकल पर्सनल की कमी है, क्या सरकार हर प्रदेश में टेक्निकल एजुकेशन बढ़ाना चाहती है और इस्टिड्यूशन्स खोलना चाहती है ?

Shri M. M. Das: Yes, Sir

श्री गणपति राम सरकार प्रत्येक स्टेट में कितने टेक्निकल इन्स्टिट्यूशन्स खोलना चाहती है और उन पर कितना खर्चा खर्च करना चाहती है ?

Shri M. M. Das: The information about the steps that the Government

propose to take has been given in the statement that has been placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know the total amount of financial aid given to the institutions which are run by private agencies, and what is the basis on which this amount is allocated to the different States?

Shri M. M. Das: That is a question altogether different from the main question. But, so far as this scheme for expansion of technical education is concerned, which relates to the question, the amount of non-recurring expenditure will be round about Rs 6 crores during the Second Five Year Plan

Shri Ranga: In what proportion is financial assistance given to the State Governments, is it 50 50?

Shri M. M. Das: For the expansion of some of the engineering institutes that has been contemplated by the Government, all the capital expenditure for such expansion will be borne either by the Government of India or by the University Grant Commission according to whether the institution belongs to the university or the State Government, or the Government of India

About recurring expenditure, for the first year, the whole recurring expenditure will be borne by the Government of India, in the second year, 80 per cent of the recurring expenditure and in the third year and the fourth year, 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure will be borne by the Government of India. This finishes the plan period, and for the rest of expenditure, either the State Government or the institution itself has to bear

Shri Dasappa: Is it not a fact that many of the State Governments have been pressing upon the Central Government to permit them to admit more students into these technical institutions and may I know what steps the Government are taking to meet this great demand?

Shri M. M. Das: We have formulated a scheme for the expansion of some of the existing engineering institutions. The selection depends upon the scope for such expansion and I know the case my hon. friend refers to, but in that case, I think there is no scope at present for further expansion.

Shri Dasappa: I was not referring to any case for the future. I was only referring to the fact that during this year they are attempting to work at least by shifts and see that some more students are admitted into these institutions.

Shri M. M. Das: All such requests from the State Governments or other institutions or authority have been taken into consideration, and decisions have been arrived at after giving the fullest consideration to the scope that is available for such expansion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: If it is not possible to expand these institutions immediately, what is the difficulty in having a shift system so that the existing institutions may be utilised to the utmost?

Shri M. M. Das: We have already taken schemes and the schemes are under contemplation for the expansion of existing engineering institutions and in comparison with last year, the total number of admissions this year has gone up.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I was asking what is the objection to the shift system.

Shri Dasappa: They have to consider this matter. The hon. Minister says as though the matter is now closed.

Shri M. M. Das: The Planning Commission and the Government of India set up a two member committee with Shri J. C. Ghosh and Shri L. S. Chandrakant, the Deputy Educational Adviser (Technical) to the Government of India, to investigate the

details of this matter, and this committee has given its recommendation suggesting the names of the institutions which will be expanded during the second Plan period. In arriving at this conclusion about the selection of these institutions, they have taken into consideration the existing buildings, the buildings which are to be constructed and the existing teaching staff, equipment and all other relevant matters.

Mr. Speaker: The simple question is whether this committee has considered the shift system, whether it is possible to have a shift system. That is the only point that has been asked.

Shri M. M. Das: I am not sure whether the shift system has been advised, but we are contemplating to use the same laboratory and the same equipment, and so, the shift system has to be adopted to some extent.

Shri Dasappa: In view of the integration of the various parts in one or other State, is it not a fact that special problems have arisen, and because of that, those who have no engineering or medical or any other technical colleges within their own area are finding difficulty now that they are torn away from their former State.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving arguments for extending the facilities or for having a shift system. The hon. Minister has said that the committee has recommended certain things.

Shri Dasappa: He referred to a committee which was not concerned with the integration of States.

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow arguments of this kind under this question.

Staff Quarters of Central Excise Department

*715. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 724 on the 13th August, 1955 regarding the staff quarters of the

Central Excise Department and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of construction; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Government were considering construction of staff quarters at Sambalpur and Cuttack. No site could be selected at the former place, while a site was selected at Cuttack last year but had to be given up as the Town Planner had objected to its use for residential quarters. An alternative site could not be selected so far.

(b) Further action on the project has been deferred for the present due to the budgetary position.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether this scheme will be extended to other districts of the Orissa State?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: This scheme itself has been for the present kept in abeyance. The question of further extension does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know which are the categories of staff for whom these quarters are constructed?

Mr. Speaker: The whole question is kept in abeyance. Is it the categories of staff that the hon. Member wants?

Shri Sanganna: Yes, Sir. Categories.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is for the non-gazetted government staff.

Shri Mahanty: I understand from the reply given by the hon. Minister that the process of building staff quarters at Cuttack was pending because the Town Planner did not recommend the site. Is it not a fact that the whole establishment of the Town Planner along with the Town Planner has been abolished in the meantime? I want to know whether the Government followed up that matter and whether the Government enquired of the Government of Orissa from time to time in this regard? Is it a fact that these employees are

being put to great hardship due to the lack of accommodation in Cuttack?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is undoubtedly a realisation on our part that Government employees, particularly in the non-gazetted sector, find a great deal of difficulty in finding accommodation in far away places, and that is why we have given high priority for certain places for construction of houses. Whether the particular Town Planner or the Town Planning Officer is still there or not or whether changes have occurred since his report which was adverse so far as we are concerned, is a matter over which I cannot speak today without further information. But as my young colleague mentioned, the whole scheme is subjected to review in view of the present budgetary position; but I can give this assurance that in spite of the present budgetary position, do propose to go ahead as early as possible with the question of construction of staff quarters for the non-gazetted staff in those areas where quarters are not available, and we shall perhaps find out if there is a new Town Planning Officer in Cuttack who will be more reasonable than the one who has now apparently gone away.

Western Zonal Council

*716. Shri Mahagaonkar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Zonal Council has not been inaugurated yet, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) The dates proposed for the meeting did not suit the States because of their pre-occupation with the general elections and sessions of the State Legislatures. The council will meet in the near future.

Shri Mahagaonkar: May I know when the next meeting of this Council will be held?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Presumably within a month.

Shri Khadilkar: May I know whether the inauguration of the Western Zonal Council has been postponed in order to give time to the Chief Ministers of the States of Bombay and Mysore to arrive at some settlement regarding Belgaum and other border disputes?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I will be glad if it helps that process

Import of Steel

*717. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total tonnage of imported steel received in our ports during 1956-57,

(b) whether it is a fact that certain Government departments for which the steel had been originally intended, declined during 1956-57 to accept delivery;

(c) if so, what was the tonnage of steel that was so declined and the reasons thereof,

(d) whether it is a fact that the said steel that had been declined was given over for free sale by the Iron and Steel Controller at Calcutta and also in other places,

(e) what was the amount of loss suffered by Government in the course of the said transactions, and

(f) whether an enquiry will be made into the matter?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 1,914,476 tons

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Approximately 25,000 tons

(d) Yes, but at a later stage

(e) Nil

(f) Does not arise

If I may add, Sir, with your permission, in answer to part (c), change in design and late arrival were among the reasons for declining to accept.

Short Notice Question and Answer

Admission to Delhi Colleges

S.N.Q. No. 6. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Easwara Iyer:
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a very large number of students have been denied admission to Delhi Colleges;

(b) if so, their number, and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remedy this situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimani): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 97]

Shri Vasudevan Nair: From the statement I find that 8,800 students were refused admission to different colleges and universities I would like to know whether there is an unusual difficulty this year with regard to the admission to the colleges and if so, how does it compare with last year's position?

Dr. K. L. Shrimani: This is a recurring difficulty. The number of students who seek admission continues to be growing and it is not possible for the existing colleges to cope with the situation. This year particularly, a large number of students have been refused admission.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know what is the total number of students who have passed from schools and qualified themselves for education in the university last year and how many of them have been able to secure admission to the various colleges and to the university?

Dr. K. L. Shrimani: I am afraid I cannot give the break-up, but I can give him the general situation with regard to the number of students on the rolls. There are 6,867 students on

the rolls and there are 8,800 students who are seeking admission and who have been refused. This is not the correct figure showing the actual number of refusals, because many students enrol themselves in various institutions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know how many have passed the higher secondary examination or other examinations from the schools and how many could secure admission?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will put down a separate question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The statement says that with a view to consolidate education, they are not proposing to encourage admissions on a large scale to the colleges. I want to know what percentage of students have succeeded in getting admission to the colleges?

Mr. Speaker: These facts may be asked separately. It does not exactly arise out of this question, which asks, how many students have been denied admission.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Vice-Chancellor has made a proposal that new colleges will be established this year to accommodate the students? May I know also whether the proposal is in force and whether the colleges would start functioning?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The proposal was received by the Ministry on the 6th late in the afternoon. It will be examined sympathetically.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know, out of the students who are now waiting to get admission into the colleges and the university, how many are third divisioners and whether in the case of such students, Government have any scheme to divert their attention to some other vocational type of training?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: This is a different question. As I said, the Government cannot take the responsibility of admitting all the students who have passed out of the higher secondary

schools. In fact, the whole policy of the Government is to divert the students to various occupations and jobs, so that the rush to the universities may be prevented. That was the recommendation of the University Education Commission also. It is not our policy to expand the facilities at the present moment, as far as the university education is concerned. The reorganisation of secondary education is also aiming at offering diversified courses, in order that the students may be diverted to various occupations and trades.

श्री नवल प्रसाद : यह सुझाव भी सरकार के विचारार्थीन था कि रात्रि में भी कुछ वाजे चल जायें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह मामला अब कहाँ तक पहुँचा है ?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: That proposal is also under consideration of the Government and action will be taken shortly.

Shri Ranga: Is the admission to the Delhi University and colleges here being made on an all-India basis or is it being restricted to any local area like Delhi, Punjab, U.P. etc.?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The question is with regard to the Delhi University at the present moment. I have also said that the University Grants Commission have accepted the policy which I have just mentioned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

राजनैतिक पंक्षितों को सहायता

*७०३ श्री भजन बर्मान क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री २४ मई, १९५७ के अताराकित प्रश्न संख्या २३४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बतान की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) राजनैतिक पंक्षितों को सहायता देने के लिये सन् १९५५-५६ से बजट में जो धनराशि रखी जा रही है उस में से कितने व्यक्तियों को वित्तीय सहायता दी गई, और

(ख) यह सहायता किस आधार पर दी गई और किस किस को कितनी धनराशि दी गई ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (वंदित श्री. व. कल) :
(क) सहायता पाने वालों की वर्ष-वार संख्या इस प्रकार है :—

वित्तीय वर्ष	सहायता पाने वालों की संख्या
--------------	--------------------------------

१९५५-५६	३७८
---------	-----

१९५६-५७	२६२
---------	-----

१९५७-५८	४१
---------	----

(३१-७-५७ तक)

(ख) हर एक को उसके द्वारा की गई राष्ट्रीय सेवा तथा उसके और उसके परिवार की आर्थिक स्थिति के अनुसार सहायता दी गई। सहायता की रकम १६० रुपये से १५,००० रुपये तक है।

Konark Temple

*706. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some broken images of Konark Temple are being used for construction of a godown for the Archaeological Department near the Temple;

(b) the reasons that led the Archaeological Department to bore a hole in the Jagamohan Temple at Konark; and

(c) the amount spent for clearing sands from inside the compound wall of the Konark Temple?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Shri K. L. Shrimani): (a) No images, broken or otherwise, have been used as suggested.

(b) the bores were made in order to improve the ventilation of the interior of the Jagamohan of Konark temple.

(c) Rs. 28,674.

Inter-State Sales Tax

*718. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that fresh notices were issued to merchants and traders by Governments of Madras, Punjab, Bihar and Orissa to submit their returns with the object of collecting inter-State sales tax even after the date of passing of the Sales Tax Laws Validation Act of 1956 by Parliament?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): We understand that fresh notices were issued by the State Governments to determine whether any tax on inter-State transactions that took place between 1st April, 1951 and 6th September, 1955, was payable by out of State dealers.

अफीम का कारखाना, गाजीपुर

*७१९. श्री सरजू पांडे : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गाजीपुर के अफीम के कारखाने में अफीम का प्रति वर्ष कितना उत्पादन होता है और उसमें कितने मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं;

(ख) इस कारखाने में उत्पादित अफीम मुख्यतः किस काम में लाई जाती है;

(ग) क्या वहां काम करने वाले मजदूरों पर बीमा योजना लागू है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त उपमंत्री (श्री व. रा. भगत) :

(क) गाजीपुर के अफीम के कारखाने में प्रति वर्ष लगभग ७,७०० मन अफीम तैयार होती है और इसमें आजकल ६२३ व्यक्ति काम कर रहे हैं।

(ख) इस कारखाने में तैयार की गयी अफीम राज्यों को दी जाती है। यहां की अफीम विदेशों को भी भेजी जाती है जहां इस से दवाओं के लिए क्षाराम (एल्काइड) तैयार

किये जाते हैं। इस के अतिरिक्त इस कारखाने की अफीम से देश में बेचने या बाहर भेजने के लिए दवाओं में काम आने वाली अफीम और क्षारक तैयार किये जाते हैं। मार्च १९५६ तक राज्यों को अफीम देना बन्द कर दिया जायगा।

(ग) कर्मचारी सरकारी बीमा अधिनियम उत्तर प्रदेश में भी, जहाँ गाजीपुर आबाद है, लागू है; लेकिन अभी गाजीपुर में यह योजना लागू नहीं की गयी, इसलिए वहाँ के कर्मचारियों को अभी तक संशय के लिए नहीं कहा गया।

(घ) श्रम मंत्रालय इस योजना को क्रम क्रम से लागू कर रहा है और औद्योगिक संस्थाओं की संख्या तथा चिकित्सा सम्बन्धी सुविधाओं की सुलभता जैसे अनेक विषयों पर विचार करने के बाद सम्बद्ध राज्य सरकारों के परामर्श से इसके लाभ सम्बन्धी उपबन्ध विशेष क्षेत्रों में धीरे धीरे लागू किये जा रहे हैं। इस योजना को पहले उन अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में लागू करने का विचार है जहाँ कर्मचारियों की संख्या अपेक्षाकृत अधिक है। अभी तक २० लाख में से ११ लाख कर्मचारी इस योजना के अन्तर्गत आ चुके हैं और द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय आयोजना की अवधि में बाकी को भी इसके अन्तर्गत ले आने का विचार है।

Training-cum-Production Centre at Jhargram

*720. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Government of India to set up a training-cum-production centre for sheet metal industry for the tribal boys at Jhargram, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether that Institution will be attached to the Technical Training Centre, Jhargram under the Community Development Project Block?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Training Centre at Kothagudem

*721. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the proposal to open a Training Centre at Kothagudem, Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh to train technicians for the coal mines and mineral industry;

(b) whether Government propose to construct a building for the Training Centre; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost of the building and when the work on it will commence?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Government have approved the proposal for the establishment of an Institute at Kothagudem for training of 40 students annually in mining engineering.

(b) and (c). Yes, the scheme includes the construction of a building at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.66 lakhs, out of a total non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 7.44 lakhs. 3/4th of this cost will be given by the Government of India. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 66,500 for the building was sanctioned for 1956-57 as a part of the Central Government's share.

The date of the commencement of the work on building will be intimated to the House on hearing from the State Government.

Industrial Management Cadre

*722. Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the progress made so far towards creating an All India Service for manning Industrial undertakings?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The Union Public Service Commission are at present scrutinising the

applications received by them in response to their advertisement. The interviews of the candidates will commence sometime early next year.

पश्चिमी उच्च टेक्नोलॉजिकल संस्था, बम्बई

*७२३. श्री हरिवन्धन शर्मा : क्या शिक्षा और वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पर्वई में पश्चिमी उच्च टेक्नोलॉजिकल संस्था, बम्बई के निर्माण कार्य के कब से प्रारम्भ होने की सम्भावना है ?

शिक्षा तथा वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (डा० का० ला० श्रीवास्ती) : पश्चिमी उच्च टेक्नोलॉजिकल संस्था, बम्बई के भवन का निर्माण कार्य नवम्बर १९५७ तक प्रारम्भ हो जाने की सम्भावना है ।

Central Pool of Administrative Officers

*724. { Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Shri R. S. Lal:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Pool of Administrative Officers is being constituted;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof;

(c) what are the qualifications required for inclusion in it, and

(d) whether there is any provision for them to be periodically sent back to the States to gain first-hand experience?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) The pool is being constituted with a view to build up a body of officers with special training and experience for the purpose of economic administration and maintaining continuity of knowledge and experience in the field of general administration.

(c) The Pool will be composed of officers of the I.A.S. and Central Field Services considered specially suitable for Economic administration and of comparatively senior officers for general administration. Persons with specialised qualifications may also be directly recruited from the open market at higher age levels. Such candidates will be required to possess high academic qualifications in Economics and should also have some experience in business, commerce, banking, industry or other allied professions or in teaching or field research in Economics.

(d) Yes: The scheme provides that officers of less than 18 years seniority will ordinarily be sent back to the States to renew their experience of State and District administration. Officers above this level of seniority may also be required to do so.

Legal Aid

*725. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who received legal aid during 1956-57; and

(b) amount involved?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) The information is not available with the Government of India as legal assistance to Scheduled Tribes is given by the State Governments.

(b) The Government of India during 1956-57 gave grants-in-aid totalling Rs 9,300/- to some State Governments who asked for the same. The expenditure incurred by them from their own resources is not known.

Inter-Services Historical Section

*726. Shri Naushir Bharucha: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) what are the Volumes compiled by the Combined Inter-Service

Historical Section, on operations in which Armed Forces of undivided India took part;

(b) the titles, the theatres of war the volumes comprise;

(c) how many copies of each volume are printed;

(d) how these copies have been disposed of; and

(e) the work that remains to be done by the Inter-Service Historical Section?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Ragharamaiah): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 98.]

Death of I.A.F. Officers in U.K.

*727. Shri Joachim Alva: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Indian Air Force Officers of the rank of Flight Lieutenants were killed on the 26th July, 1957 in a Canberra Jet crash at Abington Pigots near Royston, Herfordshire, United Kingdom;

(b) what will be the rate of *ex-gratia* and other kinds of payments to the widows or dependants of the deceased officers; and

(c) the number of fatal accidents of Officers and men in the I.A.F. during 1957 so far in India and abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Ragharamaiah): (a) Two officers were killed on the 25th July, 1957.

(b) Both the deceased officers were bachelors. Claims to dependant's pension from their dependants will be considered under the rules. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the quantum of award which may be admitted. The payment will be under the rules and not *ex-gratia*.

(c) Six.

Leakage of Budget Proposals

*728. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 103 on the 16th May, 1957 and state the progress up-to-date, of the proceedings in the criminal case filed in connection with the leakage of taxation proposals contained in the Budget for 1956-57?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The case is still pending in the Court.

मलारी के पास प्राप्त स्मृति चिन्ह

*७३०. श्री भवन वर्मान : क्या शिक्षा और वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री ७ सितम्बर, १९५६ के प्रतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या १४३५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में सभा-पटल पर एक ऐसा विवरण रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें गढ़वाल जिले के मलारी ग्राम के पास जिन हमशान स्थानों का पता लगा था उन के बारे में एकत्र जानकारी दी हुई हो ?

शिक्षा तथा वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० का० ला० श्रीवास्ती) : अभी तक स्थान का निरीक्षण सम्भव नहीं हो सका है। स्थान का निरीक्षण होते ही एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया जायेगा। यह कार्य अक्टूबर १९५७ से पहले पहले हो जायेगा।

Eastern Frontier Rifles

*731. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Frontier Rifles of West Bengal have been deputed to Manipur;

(b) the average monthly expenditure borne by the Manipur Administration on account of the Eastern Frontier Rifles since their arrival at Manipur;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Frontier Rifles have been engaged on police duty on the borders of Manipur; and

(d) whether the importation of the Eastern Frontier Rifles has delayed or suspended the scheme of expansion of the Manipur Rifles?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):
(a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 63,000/- appx.

(c) Yes.

(d) There is no scheme for the expansion of Manipur Rifles.

Mineral Areas

*732. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have compiled information about the mineral areas in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons for delay?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India has been compiling information about the mineralised areas in the country for over a hundred years now. This information is published in the Department's Records, Memoirs and Bulletins regularly and is based on the data obtained by its officers in the course of the geological surveys conducted by them during the field season. The Department was strengthened somewhat in the first Five Year Plan period and is being further expanded in the second. The compiling of such data is a continuing process.

Displaced Persons in Andaman Islands

*733. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Subodh Hasda:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many displaced persons have been rehabilitated in Andaman Islands during the last three months; and

(b) whether they have been put up in camps or provided with housing accommodation?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) 898 persons (221 families).

(b) They have been provided with temporary accommodation in Middle and North Andamans where they are to be settled, pending the construction of permanent houses.

State Bank of India

*734. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 1287 on the 20th December, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the ex-Managing Director, State Bank of India, who resigned on the 1st September, 1956, has already been paid the gratuity of Rs. 2 lakhs; and

(b) whether the question will be re-examined if the payment has not already been made?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Out of a gratuity of Rs. 2 lakhs sanctioned to Shri S. K. Handoo, the ex-Managing Director of the State Bank of India, a sum of Rs. 50,000/- has actually been paid to him on the 1st October, 1956 and a sum of Rs. 1,37,984/- has been paid to Government towards income-tax and super-tax in respect thereof, pending final adjustment after the tax liability has been settled.

(b) Does not arise.

Grants to Affiliated Colleges

*735. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of giving grants for the improvement of education in affiliated colleges has been considered by Government in the light of the recommendations of the Three Year Degree Course Estimates Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri C. D. Deshmukh;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) the number and names of such colleges to which such grants have been given so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). The question has been considered but a final decision has not yet been taken on the recommendations of the Three-Year Degree Course Estimates Committee.

(c) Does not arise.

Restrictions on Advances against Stocks of Sugar

*736. Shri Mohan Swarup: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders were issued by the Reserve Bank of India restricting advances against stocks of sugar;

(b) whether the order applied both to the stocks owned by the factories as well as by the trade;

(c) if so, what was the justification for applying the restrictions to the Mills as their sales are regulated under the Essential Commodities Act 1955;

(d) whether Government have received any representations regarding the hardship caused to the factories and trade; and

(e) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government in this matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (e). The Reserve Bank of India issued instructions on the 29th June, 1957 requiring the banks *inter alia* (i) to raise margins for advances against sugar and (ii) to bring down advances by July 26 and every week thereafter to a level not more than 10 per cent above that obtaining in the corresponding week of last year. As a result however of representations received, by the Reserve Bank that some units of the industry might find genuine difficulty in complying fully with the terms of the directive in view of the regulation of releases by Government, the instructions were subsequently modified so as to exclude individuals, firms, companies, co-operative societies or other concerns manufacturing sugar from the applicability of the first part of the directive.

Government of India Scholarships

*737. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government intend to extend the date of receiving the applications for Government of India Scholarships upto the 31st August, 1957 instead of July, 1957 in view of the late opening of the educational institutions in the State of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal due to the spread of Influenza?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): In the case of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Scheme the date of receiving applications has been extended upto 17th August, 1957 on account of Influenza. Requests for extension of date under the various Scholarships Schemes are considered on merits of each case and extension allowed where necessary.

Cultural Relations with Poland

*738. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to promote cultural relations with Poland under the Indo-Polish Agreement of March, 1957?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): The Agreement has not so far been ratified. Implementation of the provisions of the Agreement will follow after exchange of instruments of ratification in Warsaw.

Economic aid from U.S.A.

*739. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether India have drawn the full amount out of the 62.5 million dollar economic assistance sanctioned by the U.S.A. under the Development Assistance Programme for the year ending 30th June, 1957?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Project agreements have been signed for the entire amount. The funds will be expended against purchase of equipment and commodities for which arrangements are being made.

Loans to Industrial Undertakings

526. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of loans sanctioned by Government during 1956-57 to industrial undertakings, concern-wise;

(b) the total amount of money actually disbursed during the same period, concern-wise;

(c) the total amount of loans to be sanctioned during, 1957-58; and

(d) the number of applications received for loans so far?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a), (b) and (d). The information is being collected and

will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

(c) Current Budget includes Rs. 45 crores as loans for industrial purposes.

Salaries of Primary Teachers in Andhra

527. { Shri B. S. Murthy:
Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan asked for by the Andhra Government, from the Centre to raise the scales of pay of Primary School Teachers in the State; and

(b) the amount sanctioned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) No such request has so far been received from the Andhra Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Educational Institutions in Rajasthan

528. **Shri M. D. Mathur:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to lay on the Table a list of the educational institutions in Rajasthan along with the amounts of grant-in-aid and loan, if any, received by them from the Centre during 1956-57 under its various schemes?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): The information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 99.]

Grants for Scientific Research to Rajputana University

530. **Shri Onkar Lal:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the amount of grants given to the University of Rajputana during the year 1956-57 for pursuing Scientific Research?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Shri K. L. Shrimall): Rs. 30,000/-.

Multi-purpose Schools in Rajasthan

531. Shri Onkar Lal: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state how much amount will be allotted by the Central Government for starting multi-purpose Schools in Rajasthan during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): The total amount of central assistance during the period will depend on the extent to which the State Government are in a position to implement the scheme. As such no final figures can be given.

Excavations at Ratangir

532. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake archaeological excavations at Ratangir in the District of Cuttack, Orissa; and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the next winter

असिस्टेंटों की नियुक्ति

२३३. श्री रामानन्द झाट्टी : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जुलाई, १९५७ में असिस्टेंट ग्रेड की जो परीक्षा हुई थी उसके आधार पर केन्द्रीय सचिवालय में अनुसूचित जातियों के कितने व्यक्तियों की नियुक्ति की गई;

(ख) क्या वे असिस्टेंट जो एक साल की परिबीक्षा के बाद स्थायी बनाये जाने वाले थे, स्थायी कर दिये गये हैं; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो वे कब स्थायी बनाये जायेंगे और देरी के क्या कारण हैं ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री बालार) : (क) ६८ ।

(ख) तथा (ग). प्रारम्भिक कार्यवाही पूरी की जा रही है । यदि उनका परिबीक्षा काल संतोषजनक रूप में समाप्त हुआ तो आशा है कि उन्हें शीघ्र ही स्थायी बना दिया जायगा ।

Area under Tobacco Cultivation in Parbhani District

534. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land in the district of Parbhani in Bombay brought under tobacco cultivation during the years 1953-54 to 1956-57 year-wise; and

(b) the total amount realised from that area as excise duty on tobacco during these years separately?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No. 100.]

Income Tax

535. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax realised from Parbhani District (Bombay) during each of the years 1952-53 to 1955-56.

(b) the amount realised from persons falling under various income groups during this period; and

(c) the number of cases in which realisation of income tax is pending at present?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The amount of income-tax realised from Parbhani

District (Bombay) during each of the years 1952-53 to 1955-56 was:—

	(Figures in Lakhs)
1952-53	3.26
1953-54	5.71
1954-55	3.87
1955-56	3.55

(b) The amount realised from persons falling under various income groups during this period was:

	(in lakhs)			
	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
Assessees with Business income over Rs. 25,000	1.92	3.82	2.63	2.51
Assessees with Business income from Rs. 10,001 to Rs. 25,000	.71	.86	.61	.59
Assessees with Business income from Rs. 5,001 to Rs. 10,000	45	83	52	38
Other cases with Business income not exceeding Rs. 5,000	08	20	11	07
	3.16	5.71	3.87	3.55

(c) The number of cases in which realisation of Income-tax is pending at present is 317.

Coal Supply to Punjab

536. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coal supplied to Punjab and erstwhile Pepsu State during the last three years;

(b) the quantity supplied to Punjab during 1957 so far;

(c) the reasons for the present coal shortage in Punjab; and

(d) when the situation is expected to improve?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The quantity of coal supplied to Punjab and erstwhile PEPSU State during the last three years is shown below:

Punjab State

	tons
1954	761,647
1955	692,011
1956	683,206

Pepsu State

	tons
1954	164,158*
1955	316,828
1956	331,500

*Figures are from 1-6-54 only. Figures previous to that were all shown under "miscellaneous states" comprising all the former princely states.

(b) The quantity supplied to Punjab upto the month of May 1957 is approximately 482,517 tons.

(c) The quantity of coal supplied during the current year is more than that during the corresponding period of the last year namely 359,101 tons. If there is shortage of coal in Punjab in spite of this, it is evidently due to demand increasing faster than the availability of transport.

(d) The despatches of coal to Punjab may improve further during the slack season viz July to October.

Smuggling on Goa Border

537. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the value and description of contraband goods seized by customs authorities on Goa border from the 1st December, 1956 to the 30th June, 1957;

(b) the value of goods still lying in godowns;

(c) the value of goods disposed of; and

(d) the number of persons involved in the smuggling during the same period?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Contraband goods comprising of foreign silk, georgette cloth, stationery, shaving blades, torches, manufactured tobacco, apparel, chewing gum, foreign liquor, betelnuts, country liquor, toilet requisites on import, and food stuffs, Indian handloom and powerloom cloth, livestock, Indian currency and other miscellaneous articles on export, valued at Rs. 3,74,692 in all, were seized on the Goa border during the period from 1st December, 1956, to 30th June, 1957.

(b) the value of goods still lying in the godowns is Rs. 2,81,251.

(c) the value of goods since disposed of is Rs. 93,441; and

(d) the number of persons found involved in smuggling during the same period is 781.

Cantonment Boards Employees

538. { Shri Warior:
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that workers employed in Cantonment Boards have been agitating for improvement in their service and working conditions; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposals to regulate their service and working conditions on a uniform basis?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) Yes.

(b) The service and working conditions of Cantonment Board employees are regulated on a uniform basis

Income Tax

539. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount realised from Punjab State by way of income-tax in 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the amount still to be realised?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The total amounts of Income-tax including Corporation

Tax realised in the Punjab State and in the erstwhile PEPSU State in 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 were as under:

(Figures in Crores)				
	Punjab	Peasu	Total	
1954-55	2.22	0.003	2.21	
1955-56	2.38	.22	2.60	
1956-57	3.00	.12	3.12	

(Includes (Upto collections in PEPSU after 1-1-56 as PEPSU is now merged with Punjab).]

The amount still to be realised on 1st April 1957 is Rs 5.18 crores, of which Rs 88 lakhs relate to the erstwhile PEPSU State

Political Organisations

540. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of Central Government Servants against whom action has been taken on the ground of membership or association with different political organisations during the year 1956 and the organisations to which each affected person belonged?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): No such action has been taken by or in the Home Ministry. Information in regard to other Ministries is not available.

Fuel Plant at Kothagudam

541. { Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to

set up a low temperature Carbonisation Plant to manufacture smokeless domestic fuel at Kothagudam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what will be the cost of this project and by what time will the Plant go into production?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, the matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Opium

542. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government propose to restrict progressively export of opium to other countries?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Export of opium to foreign countries is effected only against import licences issued by the Governments of the importing countries. This is to ensure that such opium is utilised solely for the production of alkaloids for medicinal purposes, or for scientific research.

In these circumstances the question of a progressive reduction of export of opium does not arise.

Appointment of Relatives of Officers in Private Firms

543. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) number of Officers who sought previous permission of Government for appointment of their relatives in private firms during the last 2 years; and

(b) number of cases where permission was withheld during the same period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha as soon as it is available.

Property Statements

544. { Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instructions under the Central Civil Services (Conduct) rules requiring every member of class I & II service to submit return every year of their properties are being followed strictly;

(b) the steps taken against defaulters; and

(c) whether these returns are scrutinised and if so by what agency?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Defaulters in this respect are liable to be proceeded against departmentally.

(c) Yes; by the head of the office or the head of the department or the administrative Ministry, as the case may be, or any other authority prescribed for the purpose.

State Bank of India

545. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what percentage of the rural credit was met by the State Bank of India during 1956-57 and 1957-58 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The materials are being collected for the purpose of working out the percentage of the rural credit which was met by the State Bank of India during these periods.

Manipur Rifles

546. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine pensioners including disabled and compulsory pensioners are still in service in the senior ranks in the Manipur Rifles; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Eight pensioners of the rank of Subedar Major and below are in service in the Manipur Rifles. Of these, one is a disability pension holder and seven are retirement pension holders.

(b) None of those persons had reached the age of superannuation at the time of their re-employment, and are still below that age.

Medical Treatment

547. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state when the civilians in Ordnance Depots, MES and Technical Development Organisation will be entitled to the same medical treatment, as the civilians in Ordnance Factories?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah). Civilians in Technical Development establishments which are associated with Ordnance Factories and civilians of IN/LAF detachments attached to them are already entitled to the same medical treatment facilities as the civilians in Ordnance Factories at the Factory Hospitals. There is no proposal under consideration to put civilians in Ordnance Depots, MES and other Technical Development establishments, which are not associated with Ordnance Factories, on the same footing as civilians in Ordnance Factories in this respect.

Employees in Private Sector

548. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the "Indianisation" of officers in the Private Sector, a large number of Indian officers who are closely related to officers in key posts in Government of India have been recruited in such undertakings to fill up important posts,

(b) whether the Government of India have made any enquiry about this matter, and

(c) if so, what are their findings?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c) Government have not found it necessary to maintain any statistics in this respect. They have, however, issued certain instructions regulating acceptance of employment in the Private Sector by close relatives and dependants of Class I officers. A copy of these instructions is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 101].

भारतीय पुलिस प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र

५४९ श्री नवल प्रभाकर क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय माउण्ट आबू के भारतीय पुलिस सेवा प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र में कितने व्यक्ति प्रशिक्षण ले रहे हैं,

(ख) प्रत्येक राज्य के कितने कितने व्यक्ति प्रशिक्षण के लिये चुने गये हैं, और

(ग) प्रत्येक प्रशिक्षार्थी पर अनुमानित कितना खर्च होगा ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त)

(क) ५५ ।

(ख) सब जाक सेवा आयोग की प्रतियोगी परीक्षा के परिणामों के आधार पर जो उम्मीदवार भारतीय पुलिस सेवा में भर्ती किये जाते हैं उन्हें इस कालेज में शिक्षा दी जाती है। इनके प्रतिरिक्त सम्बन्धित राज्य सरकारों के कहने पर कुछ अन्य अधिकारियों को भी शिक्षा दी जाती है। राज्य बार आफिसों का विवरण सभापटल पर रख दिया गया है। [बेसिद्धे परिशिष्ट २, अनुसूचक सं० १०२]

(ग) प्रशिक्षण पाने वाले अधिकारियों के वेतन और भत्ते के प्रतिरिक्त लगभग ७,००० रुपये प्रति वर्ष ।

Scholarships for Scheduled Castes Students

550. **Shri Ganapati Ram:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that some Scheduled Castes students have not yet received the amount of scholarship awarded to them for 1956-57;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, and

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the principals of the colleges delay in the payment of the money?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). Except in a few cases which are still under correspondence with the institutions, payments have been made in respect of all the 1956-57 scholarship holders

(c) No, Sir, except in very rare cases where there are special reasons

Grants for Technical Education

551. **Shri Radhamohan Singh:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have advanced grants to States for advancement of technical education;

(b) if so, the amount given to U.P. during 1957-58 so far and the scheme for its utilization,

(c) the names of institutions in each State which will receive grants and for which courses of technical education,

(d) whether the Central Government or the State Governments would start or establish new technical institutions under this scheme, and

(e) if so, where and when they will start functioning?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (e) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 103].

Authority for Secondary Education

552. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether Government are considering a proposal for the creation of an authority for Secondary education in each of the States of India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): The Government of India have recommended the establishment of Boards of Higher Secondary Education in States, where they do not exist at present

All India Tribal Conference

553. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No 442 on the 29th May, 1957 in respect of the All India Tribal Conference at Koraput and state

(a) whether any of its resolutions have been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, what are they?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) and (b) Government of India are concerned with resolution No 1 only regarding the carrying out of sample survey in various States for finalising the criteria for the definition of Scheduled Tribes This is under consideration

Vocational Training, Mysore

554. **Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state.

(a) what was the amount allotted to Mysore State for the year 1955-56 for giving vocational training to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates under the First Five Year Plan,

(b) whether the whole amount has been spent,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) whether the Government of Mysore have requested the Government of India for reappropriation of the amount unspent during the above year?

The Minister of Home Affairs

(Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) No amount was allotted for the purpose, as no such scheme was received from the State Government for Central assistance.

(b) to (c). Do not arise.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

555. { Shri B. K. Gaikwad:
Shri D. A. Katti:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the amount Government of India have spent on housing, education, starting of business and for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in India since 1947?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 104].

भोजपुरी भाषा

५५६. श्री सूरज पांडे : क्या शिक्षा और वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के किन भागों में भोजपुरी भाषा-भाषी लोग बहुल संख्या में हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार भोजपुरी जैसी भाषाओं के विकास के लिये प्रोत्साहन दे रही है ; और

(ग) यदि हा, तो इस दिशा में क्या प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं ?

शिक्षा तथा वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली):

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के किसी भी भाग में भोजपुरी भाषी बहुसंख्या में नहीं हैं क्योंकि सारे उत्तर प्रदेश में ऐसे लोग केवल २६० ही हैं ।

(ख) भोजपुरी हिन्दी की एक बोली मात्र है । हिन्दी की बोलियों का विकास, हिन्दी भाषा तथा साहित्य के प्रसार और विकास योजना के क्षेत्र से बाहर की चीज है ।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

मंत्रियों के निजी कर्मचारी ।

५५७. श्री सरजू पांडे : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मंत्रियों के निजी कर्मचारियों की संख्या की एक सीमा निर्दिष्ट कर दी गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो एक मंत्री को निजी कर्मचारियों के रूप में कितने व्यक्तियों की अनुमति है ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (श्री मो० बा० पन्त) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) विवरण संलग्न है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुसूच्य संख्या १०५]

Foreign Scholarships to Indian Nationals

558. Shri V. Raju: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some scholarships offered to Indian Nationals for studies abroad by foreign Governments or foreign Foundations were not utilised in the year 1956-57 as the Government of India did not recommend suitable candidates for them within the stipulated time; and

(b) if so, the total number of foreign scholarships offered during the above period which have not so far been utilised?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrinani): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

I.A.S. Emergency Recruitment

559. Shri Thimmaiah: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates have passed the written test for I.A.S. Emergency Recruitment; and

(b) the number of scheduled caste candidates, out of them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):
(a) 1982.

(b) 28 Scheduled Caste and 5 Scheduled Tribe. In addition to this 134 Scheduled Caste and 34 Scheduled Tribe have been declared as qualified in terms of para 2(i) of Part II of Appendix II the Rules for the Special Recruitment Examination, 1956, a copy of which is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No. 106].

Aid to Non-Official Organisations

560. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the amount of aid granted to the non-official organisations State-wise for the removal of untouchability so far; and

(b) whether Government have made an audit over the expenditure?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) The statements are laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 107].

(b) One of the conditions attached to the grants given so far to non-official organisations is that they have to get their accounts audited by a chartered accountant. The Government have not undertaken any audit of their accounts upto now. But from this year one more condition has been added to the grants given direct by the Centre that the accounts will be subject to test check by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at his discretion.

Recruitment

562. Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the categories of Government employees which are recruited through Departmental Committees and not through Union Public Service Commission;

(b) the defects inherent or brought to light in respect of this method of recruitment; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy these defects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):
(a) No recruitment is made through Departmental Committees as such. Such Committees, where they exist, can, at best only advise the Appointing Authority in the selections, and the final selections are always those of the Appointing Authority. Even such selections can be only for posts which have been formally excluded from the purview of the Union Public Service Commission or recruitment to which does not require to be referred to the Union Public Service Commission under the Commission's Consultation Regulations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Missing Persons Squad

563. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the number of minors recovered by the Missing Persons Squad in Delhi since its inception, and

(b) the number of such cases reported to the Missing Persons Squad during the above period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) 1643 (up to 25th July, 1957)

(b) 1798 (up to 25th July, 1957).

Acquisition of Land

564. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) the number of persons whose properties have been requisitioned and derequisitioned by Eastern Command stationed at Sterndall Road, Alipore, Calcutta and the amount so far paid and still to be paid as compensation;

(b) whether the compensation claimed by owners as a result of damages have been settled in respect of properties on Diamond Harbour Road, Behala, Calcutta after derequisition, and

(c) whether any case has been referred to arbitration and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) The information is not readily available. The number of properties requisitioned and de-requisitioned in Eastern Command runs into thousands and the number of owners is likely to be more than the number of properties involved. The information has to be collected from the various Collectors in the States falling in the jurisdiction of the Eastern Command. It is felt that the collection of the required information will involve considerable expenditure of money, labour and time which will not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

(b) and (c). Only three properties at Diamond Harbour Road, Behala, Calcutta, were requisitioned and de-requisitioned. Owners in two cases did not accept the compensation offered to them and the cases are accordingly being referred to arbitration. A sum of Rs. 17,500/- has been paid to the owner in the third case.

Appointment of Assistants

565. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistants from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed in the Central Secretariat during 1956-57; and

(b) whether all the posts of Assistants reserved for these two communities have now been filled?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) 119.

(b) No. Twenty-one are still to be filled.

Scheduled Castes etc. in Educational Institutions of Tripura

566. **Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes,

Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the various Educational Institutions (Government and aided) in Tripura;

(b) the number of students belonging to the Backward Classes of Tripura who have been sent by Government to the various higher educational (including Technical and Medical) institutions in the various parts of the country; and

(c) the total number of students and the number of students belonging to Backward Classes and Minorities among them sent from Tripura for higher and specialised education or training to countries abroad with Government assistance?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के स्कूलों में फीस

५६७. **श्री पद्म देव :** क्या शिक्षा और वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री यह बताने को तैयार करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में दसवीं कक्षा के स्कूलों में फीस से सरकार को प्रति वर्ष कितनी आय होती है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस बात को देखते हुये कि हिमाचल प्रदेश आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़ा हुआ है, दस वीं कक्षा तक निःशुल्क शिक्षा देने के प्रश्न पर विचार करेगी ?

शिक्षा तथा वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली): (क) लगभग २,१२,०००-/- रु० ।

(ख) अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित कबीलों के विद्यार्थियों को दसवीं कक्षा तक शिक्षा पहले ही से निःशुल्क है और निधि के उपलब्ध होने पर यह सुविधा सभी

**Stoppages of Work in
Certain Essential Services**

Primary Education

विद्यार्थियों को देने के लिये उपयुक्त समय पर विचार किया जायेगा।

Tobacco

568. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale prices of flue-cured and Hookah tobaccos in the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57;

(b) the rates of duty as percentage of the wholesale prices of corresponding years; and

(c) the total production of both varieties in these years?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). As there are wide variations in the wholesale prices of various qualities and types of flue-cured and hookah tobaccos from place to place and from time to time it is not practicable to compile detailed statistics of the movement of prices of all these varieties. It is also, therefore, not possible to work out the incidence of the excise duty on all such varieties as a percentage of the wholesale price.

A statement containing the average price as well as the rates of duty and their incidence expressed as a percentage, for certain selected varieties of flue-cured and hookah tobaccos in the Guntur and Calcutta markets respectively, is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 108]

(c) Separate figures for the production of hookah tobacco as such are not available, but the total production of Virginia flue-cured and Indian air-cured types of tobacco during the years of 1954-55 and 1955-56 and the estimated production for the year 1956-57 are contained in a statement which is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 108].

569. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where primary education has been made compulsory; and

(b) the amount of Central grant asked for in this regard by these States during 1957-58].

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 109].

**STATEMENT RE IMPENDING
STOPPAGES OF WORK IN CER-
TAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Government and I am sure this House are deeply concerned about notices and news of impending stoppages of work in various essential services in the country. This matter has come before the House in different forms on several occasions during the last two weeks or more. I should like to keep the House informed of recent developments and what the Government have done in this matter and propose to do.

While it is the duty of the Government to take necessary powers to maintain essential services and take steps to that end, it is equally their concern to deal with the problems that have arisen, taking into account all the aspects involved and the demands of the workers affected.

During the last three weeks or more, I have myself been intimately connected with this matter, and so have indeed my other colleagues in Government. On the 26th July I met a deputation from the National Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Employees. My colleagues, the Ministers of Labour and Communications,

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

were also with me. We had long and friendly talks in the course of which I explained to the deputation more fully our ideas about the proposed Pay Commission. The question of interim relief was then raised and the deputation was informed that this would also be referred to the proposed Pay Commission.

I came away from this meeting feeling that an atmosphere of friendly co-operation had been created and the proposed strike would not take place. I was therefore much surprised and distressed to learn the next morning that the strike decision had been confirmed by the Committee of P. & T. Federation.

On the 3rd August, the terms of reference of this Commission were announced in the House by the Finance Minister. These terms were to form part of the subsequent notification to be issued by the Government of India.

On the 5th August, I made a broadcast to the country in the course of which I spoke about the Pay Commission and referred to their function. In particular I stated that the question of interim relief would be referred to the Commission.

I was informed later that some representatives of the P. & T. Federation wanted to meet me again to seek some clarification. I met them on the late afternoon of the 6th August and had a long talk with them. The principal subject discussed was that of interim relief and I explained again that this would be referred to the Commission. Thereupon I was pressed for some immediate grant of relief. I pointed out that as this matter was being referred to the Pay Commission, it would neither be desirable nor possible for us to accept any such proposal of immediate relief. This would naturally affect many others, apart from the P. & T. people.

The question of a dateline or time-limit being fixed for the Commission

to present their interim proposals had also been raised. I made it clear that in our opinion this would not be proper nor suited to the dignity of the high-level Commission that we were appointing.

Thus, Government already announced that a high-powered Commission with an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court as Chairman will be appointed soon. In the notification appointing this Commission, reference will be made to the question of interim relief being considered by them and they may make interim reports. I have no doubt that the Commission will consider with care and expedition all problems brought to their notice.

It will appear that Government are well seized of these problems and have made it clear as to how they should be met. It is in the interest of the workers themselves as well as the country as a whole that there should be no stoppage of work in our essential services and that these problems should be dealt with by peaceful approaches and methods of conciliation to which Government are committed.

If, however, there is a stoppage of work in these essential services, then it is the duty of Government to see that the essential services are maintained, and we seek the co-operation of the public in this matter.

In view of the re-affirmation of the strike threat, in spite of the efforts that Government have made, Government have been compelled to advise the President to issue an Ordinance on the lines of the Essential Services Maintenance Bill passed by the Lok Sabha on the 6th August. I trust, however, that there will be no stoppage of work and that it will not be necessary, therefore, for this Ordinance to come into operation.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE
ORDINANCE

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has already made a statement regarding the situation that was created on account of the notices which were served by a number of service associations. In order to meet that situation, a Bill was introduced on the 3rd of August. Considering the urgency of the matter, it was taken up by the House on the 5th and 6th. As the Rajya Sabha is not in session and it is not yet clear whether we can maintain the essential services without having recourse to the provisions which have now been embodied in the Ordinance and which formed part of the original Bill, it became unavoidable to request the President to issue an Ordinance. I am placing a copy of the Ordinance promulgated by the President on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No S-170/57]. I may also inform the House that an Order concerning the P & T and Aviation service has also been issued under the Ordinance.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASHOKA HOTELS
LIMITED

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the First Annual Report on the working of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi, together with the audited statement of accounts for the year ended the 30th September, 1956 [Placed in Library See No S-168/57].

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-
ANCERE. TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF
INSPECTORS OF LIFE INSURANCE
CORPORATION

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon —

"Termination of services of many Inspectors under the Life Insurance Corporation after the introduction of new appointment letters retrospectively from the 1st September, 1956"

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The Life Insurance Corporation took over from the former insurers nearly 5,000 salaried members of the field staff. In addition, the Corporation appointed as Inspectors about 1,100 persons from amongst the field staff who were working on commission basis. There have been a few resignations and as a result, the Corporation has got on its pay roll at present approximately 6,000 persons as Inspectors. Categorisation of these officers was considered impracticable soon after setting up of the Corporation in view of the differences that existed under the former insurers, in the standard of, training, business production terms of appointment and other matters. It was decided that the field staff will be categorised on the basis of their work over a year under uniform conditions under the Corporation. The categorisation will thus be undertaken in October, 1957. In the meantime, their services are being continued on more or less the same terms as previously. The Corporation has not terminated any one's services excepting where the business record of the person was very poor and it was clear that he was evincing no interest in his work. Before actual termination of services, adequate warning has been given and the response watched. This Ministry is not

[Shri B R Bhagat]

aware of any growing discontent among the field workers as is alleged. It would be truer to say that the salaried members of the field staff have settled down to work enthusiastically under the new conditions and are bringing in a good volume of business. In these circumstances, retention of staff who do not pull their way would be detrimental to the morale of the remaining members.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS—contd

Mr. Speaker The House will now resume further discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Out of 9 hours allotted for the Demands of this Ministry, 7 hours have already been availed of and 2 hours now remain.

The list of selected cut motions relating to these Demands, which were treated as having been moved, had already been circulated to Members on the 2nd August, 1957.

How long does the hon. Minister propose to take?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): At 1-15 or 1-30.

Mr. Speaker: Forty-five minutes? I will call upon the Minister of Transport and Communications to reply to the debate at 1-30, after which the cut motions will be disposed of and the demands put to vote.

Shri Raj Bahadur may continue his speech.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Mr. Speaker, when the House rose the other day, I was referring to the events that happened before the strike notice was served. In particular, I made a mention of the annual conference of the Federation that

was held towards the end of last year at Hyderabad. At that conference, we know that the charter of demands was there. Up till that time, no formal communication had been received by us for discussion. But, I had submitted that day that I announced the Government's decisions in respect of quite a few items, important in nature, and made a special plea for the creation of a new climate and a new atmosphere for the settlement of the demands of the workers. I urged that the union need not resort to agitation or threats of strike for the settlement of disputes but could discuss matters across the table and come to a settlement. I think the announcements that I made and the concessions that we gave at that time appealed to the workers and they took notice of them in their own resolution of journals.

Soon after the conference, that is, in the month of January, I received a request for discussing these demands. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the item pertaining to the Assam Compensatory allowance was included in the charter of demands, on that item some P & T employees threatened to go on strike in the Assam State. The strike, despite the efforts, I should acknowledge, on the part of union leaders, too came about but was called off in two or three days' time.

Soon after the strike was called off we discussed this question of Assam Compensatory Allowance and certain other matters of a general nature which formed the subject-matter of various items in the charter of demands. That was in the month of February, perhaps the beginning of that month. At that meeting we also agreed that during the course of the electioneering campaign, it would not be possible for us to meet again and we fixed the next meeting in the month of March. In March when we met we took up discussion of the demands serially. The meetings were

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

continued on several occasions and the last one of these meetings was in the 3rd or 4th week of May. I submit that the Federation approached the Prime Minister with the charter of demands, with a request for the grant of an interview. A letter was sent from the secretariat suggesting to the Federation that these demands may be discussed at the ministerial level. I must acknowledge, the Federation accepted that suggestions. The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere.

I can claim here, in all humility, that out of all the demands that were discussed, I think, most of them were settled to the mutual satisfaction of the parties concerned. Of these demands I gave an analysis the other day. For the sake of keeping up the sequence, I am repeating the analysis once again. There are 30 demands in the charter. There are various sections A, B and C of many of these demands and so in fact the number comes to 86. Out of the 86, 44 have been accepted, two have been partially accepted, eight are under consideration, six are under the consideration of other departments and 26 have not been accepted. Some of the unaccepted demands, are such that it is hardly ever possible for us to accept them. In fact, I may take the House into confidence and say that one of the demands was that the P. & T. employees, or for the matter of that, other Government employees also—because this concession would have been extended to others too—should be allowed to contest elections. Then there were certain other demands which were of a political nature. Naturally we could not discuss them, and I must say that at that time the Federation accepted that point. Apart from that there were demands which were found to be impracticable, and there the matter stood.

Now I will briefly refer to the demands that were accepted and which are of a major type and which should be taken into account. Many of these demands, although

accepted, constitute items in the notice of the strike, and I will refer to them.

To begin with there was the demand for the removal of discrimination between Class III and Class IV servants in the matter of leave rules, and leave reserves. This demands has been accepted and orders have been issued, but it still finds a place in item 4 of schedule 2 of the notice of strike. The same thing I should say in regard to the demand for the removal of discrimination in the matter of medical attendance facilities between Class III and Class IV. Only one point regarding travelling and daily allowance could not be settled for certain obvious reasons.

The next point is in respect of weekly off, night co-efficient and working hours. There was a full and fair discussion, and on the question of night co-efficient and working hours etc., we did come to certain agreed solutions. The demand in respect of night co-efficient has been pending for a long time, and I admit that it could not be settled because there were certain recommendations by the experts committee in the light of which we could not go as far as we would have liked to, but here I may point out that we did not also take into account the fact that certain demands had been rejected even by the experts committees. The experts committee had rejected the demand for the inclusion of platform attendance, for instance, while computing the hours of duty performed by the R.M.S. employees. We accept this demand. It is rather an irony that it so happens that whenever a demand is not accepted by the administration or the department, it is not concluded that the demand has been discussed and disposed of finally, but so far as the unions are concerned it continues to find a place on the ending list of demands of the union or the Federation and it is not removed perhaps ever from their records. Despite the rejection of a demand once, twice, thrice by successive administrations,

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

the demand still continues. The platform attendance demand was one like that. We took good care to settle even such demands in these discussions or negotiations. I only submit that we approached the whole question in an atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy and I think whatever we could do in regard to these demands was done.

I will now come to the question of holidays because that was specifically referred to by Shri Dange. I should like him to know that the number of postal holidays in 1939 was only 11. It was increased to 14 in 1947, and 16 in 1957. The number of telegraph holidays was only 4 in 1936. In 1947 it was taken to 7 and in 1957 it is 12. So, it will be seen that progressively we have increased the number of holidays.

It was argued: why should they not be on a par in the matter of holidays with the employees of the Central Secretariat or other people of that category. It is obvious that the hours of duty of the postal and RMS and telephone and telegraph employees are fixed, and whenever they work beyond those hours, they get certain concessions, certain allowances etc. That is not the case if we consider the conditions of service of the employees of the Central Secretariat. Many of the clerks and other people are asked to work beyond office hours. In certain cases they are given overtime, but in most cases that is not the case. So, it is obvious that the analogy will not be correct, and therefore we shall also have to bear in mind that the services of the telephone, telegraph and RMS employees are of such a character that they have to go round the clock, they cannot stop for a minute. Therefore, that has also been taken into account in fixing the number of hours.

The RMS worker, as is known, in the running sections has got to perform a duty of only 30 hours minimum and 36 hours maximum. In this 36 hours, as I said just now, the

night co-efficient facility has been increased in favour of the worker. The platform attendance has been counted. The record room attendance is also counted. So, all these things mean that there is a proportionate reduction in the number of hours of duty to that extent. The Federation also knows that during the discussions we did accept the demand pertaining to the grant of leave in lieu of duty performed on holidays or the grant of overtime for that. So, that demand was also accepted.

I would now refer to one or two other points because they were referred to by Shri Nath Pai, and then give the sum and substance of the total effect of these concessions. Shri Nath Pai stated that day that despite repeated requests, representations, discussions and negotiations, the demands in respect of a permanent conciliatory machinery and an appellate tribunal has not been conceded. I am referring to these things because, as I have already mentioned, these things also have been fully discussed.

In regard to the question of appellate tribunal, if I am not giving out any secret of the discussions, I may say it was admitted on all hands that it was not possible for one officer or for even two or three officers sitting at Delhi to dispose of all the petitions, representations and appeals that arise from the decisions of the Superintendent of Post Offices at the divisional level or from the decisions of the Directors of Postal Services or of the PMGs from the circles. Then shall we have as many appellate tribunals as the number of circles? That also was not found feasible. What they wanted was that petitions submitted to the Minister or the Government invoking their revisional powers should be properly disposed of, and it is known to them, and to Shri Nath Pai with all his associations now with the Federation and the Confederation, that this demand particularly was discussed and we came to certain agreed conclusions on it.

Therefore, this should not have been referred to in the course of the debate here.

Similarly I should like to refer to the question of a permanent conciliatory machinery. It is very well known that the machinery is provided by the Ministry of Labour, and we also took notice of that.

Then about the Whitley Council. A proposal far in advance of the setting up of a Whitley Council was made by me specifically in my announcements at the annual conference of the Federation at Hyderabad. This was in regard to the proposed consultative machinery. The proposal is being considered by Government, and I think some decision may be arrived at before long.

Then he also referred to the three-monthly meetings which he alleged that the Minister refused and he also said that despite an appeal for an interview six times with the Prime Minister, that was also refused. I have just now mentioned that after the charter of demands was put forth, the Prime Minister's Secretariat informed the Federation that they should discuss the matter with the Minister concerned which they accepted. About the Ministers, I have already given the figure the other day. The charter of demands was presented not in July, but in the beginning of August and from that time onwards it will be found that as many as 39 meetings have taken place, out of which about ten or more have been at ministerial levels and the remaining at the level of the DG etc. I think it cannot be concluded by any stretch of imagination or by any process of reasoning that the Ministers were refusing interviews and the three-monthly meeting was not conceded. I think that would suffice so far as that thing is concerned.

I now come to another question that has been raised in the debate, and which also finds a place in the strike notice. That is in regard to the E.D. agents. I may respectfully point out that the institution of E. D.

agents is a unique one. It obtains not only in our country but in several other countries. It is an institution through which it has been possible for us to expand and increase the number of post offices from 22,000 at the dawn of Independence to 58,000 or more now. Without that, this would not have been possible. The basic principle or the fundamental basis on which this institution has been established is that because there is not sufficient work for a full-time employee in a village post office, therefore, we should try to find out people who are prepared to take up part-time work; and there is a condition precedent that any person who is appointed as E.D. agent should have independent means of livelihood. It is an office, undoubtedly, but this office is of a unique type or peculiar type. At any rate it is not a regular government employment. The person concerned is only an agent of the Department, and performs certain functions in lieu of the allowances that are given to him.

Now, it has so happened that because of the unemployment problem, some people have come into the ranks of the E.D. agents. As I mentioned the other day at Madras while addressing a convention of the E.D. agents, it is not our intention to be too rigorous in the application of the rules in this behalf, and to turn out those people. But at the same time, we may look into their working conditions, and for that purpose, I also announced that a one-man or a two-man committee will be constituted to look into the conditions of service and to suggest ways and means of what is to be done in regard to the E.D. agents. That was also known, and that I think should not have been referred to either in the course of the debate or in any other forum.

I shall now give an analysis of how all these concessions have affected the public exchequer. I mentioned the day before yesterday certain figures, relevant to this subject and certain doubts were expressed in regard to those figures that perhaps the break-

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

up was not there, and they may not be quite accurate. I have got with me a complete list of the figures ranging from 1947-48 to 1957-58. So far as the annual wage bill of the department is concerned.

I may point out here that after the Partition, in 1947-48, for seven months, the total provision under the head 'Pay and Allowances and Establishment' was Rs. 9,36,18,000; for the full year, it could be calculated at Rs. 14.98 crores. As a result of the application of the first Central Pay Commission's recommendations, in 1948-49, we find that there has been an addition of Rs. 3.97 crores, which took the total budget figure to Rs. 18.95 crores. I shall now tell you how the figures have gone up for the remaining period.

Year	Plus Rs. crores	Total Rs. crores
1949-50	2.41	21.36
1950-51	1.34	22.70
1951-52	1.78	24.48
1952-53	2.07	26.55
1953-54	1.64	28.19
1954-55	1.49	29.68
1955-56	1.55	31.23
1956-57 (Final estimates)	1.89	33.12
1957-58 (Approximately)		35

So, it will be seen that from Rs. 14.98 crores in 1947-48, the provision under this head has gone up to Rs. 35 crores, which is roughly two and half a times. I know the question will immediately be asked 'What about the increase in staff?' I am coming to that also, and I shall show how much increase in staff there has been, but despite the increase in staff, we can calculate how much is due to the increase in allowances and pay, and how much due to the increase in staff.

I may point out here what other things have been done in this behalf. To begin with, let me give the increase in the staff, because there also cudgels are taken against us and we are told that we have not kept pace in the matter of recruitment of

new staff for new work along with the expansion of the Department. The number of staff employed in 1947-48 was 1,53,000; in 1956, it has gone up to 2,63,000. So, it will be seen that there has been an increase of 1,10,000.

In this connection, may I also point out a few of the developments that have taken place on the side of the welfare activities of the Department for the sake of employees?

Item	No. in 1947-48	No. in 1956	Increase Percent
Mail vans	412	611	40
Co-operative societies	15	206	1,275
Canteens	51	272	433
Tiffinrooms	30	398	1,223
Recreation clubs	117	550	373
Dormitories and rest-houses	71	375	428
P. & T. holidays	13 & 8	16 & 12	23 & 50

As for the amount spent on uniforms, it has gone up from Rs. 22,70,000 to Rs. 46,52,000. I can admit that some of this increase is due to the changeover to khadi in the interests of the solution of the problem of the development of cottage industries and also unemployment. The per capita expenditure on uniforms has increased from Rs. 33 to Rs. 58. I may say that all the suggestions that were made by the staff in this behalf have almost all been accepted and are in the course of being implemented, or they have already been implemented.

From these figures, it should be apparent that all that could be done to ameliorate the conditions of service and the lot of the workers in the P. & T. Department has been done, and if these are viewed against the general background of the country, the economic development and the wage level and other things, it will be seen that it was not inconspicuous, to say the least.

We have given any number of interviews that were wanted, and we have gone to the intermost limit to which we could go, in trying to

make the worker feel that Government have all sympathy for him, and the Department will be prepared to meet this demand as far as possible.

I can personally say that so far as the negotiations were concerned, and so far as the discussions also were concerned, on certain occasions both at conferences and at meetings we found frayed tempers resulting in the use of language, which, on many occasions, was far from desirable. But the officers put up even with that. There have also been occasions when we have found in the journals the worst type of vituperations being poured on the Department and its officers. I do not know, and I fail to comprehend how much more we could have put up with. I wish my hon. friends opposite could tell me what more we could have done. Even in today's statement by the Prime Minister, have Government not gone to the uttermost limit? In the circumstances with which we are faced and taking into account the dangers that have been pointed out to us, both external and internal, the internal crisis that we are facing in regard to our economic conditions, unemployment etc.; if even in such predicaments a vast majority of the workers who do not want to go on strike come out with representations and assurances galore to the Department and to Government that they would continue to work and would oppose the strike move should they be called blacklegs as some members opposite called them the other day? Or should not those who dare think of going on strike in such conditions be called traitors? I wonder whether a person in Government employment, who very well knows that all that the Government could do has been done should not pause and think before he strikes. I plead with those friends in the P. & T. who think in terms of strike because I have worked with them, because I have shared their joys and sorrows, their pain and pleasure, and their sufferings; I have been one of them; I come from the same walk of life. Whatever be the circumstances

in which we are placed today, it cannot be said that the people in the Department who are holding the officers' ranks are rajahs or maharajahs or that they are sons of rajahs or maharajahs; they do not have any vested interests. The profits of the department do not go into their pockets. As such, when all that was possible has been done, to call such workers who would like to stand by the nation as blacklegs, would be most unjust and atrocious. I think that to raise a demand now or to claim that the interim relief should be given here and now, looks as if the people are prepared even to disrupt the communications of the country unless we concede their demands forthwith. It is like pointing a dagger at the hearing of the nation at such a critical time. In all humility and with all the goodwill I have got for them, I would plead once again that they should please see the dangers that face us and let us tide over this difficult period. Let us realise that the success of the Plan is the fruition of our destiny. We cannot realise our destiny and our goal unless the Plan succeeds.

It is a pity that right from the start of the Second Plan period from 1956, these dark clouds of industrial strife arose. I hope God will be kind and better sense will prevail and the country will be saved from a catastrophe or a crisis. I am sure that with the inspiring words the Prime Minister has said over the radio, the country will rally round as one man to face the situation.

With these few words, I would like to come to the other points which have been raised.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Kakinada—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I think his name 'Raj Bahadur' is an anathema to the proletarian outlook of these workers.

Mr. Speaker: It only shows that an ordinary man can also become a raja in this country, instead of reducing the raj to an ordinary poor man.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Most humbly, I may suggest that that I am only a bahadur in the free raj of India.

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

Now, I will come to the other points that have been made by hon. Members. They are very few this year. From year to year, as I said the other day, a series of constructive suggestions about improvement of efficiency had been made. The department has been deprived of that opportunity this year. It is not possible for me to deal with all the points. But I will take the major ones.

Shri Radhelal Vyas—he is not here—referred to OYT applications pending and connections not having been given. I have got the figures here. I am told that applicants who have paid deposit more than 6 months back in the whole of India number 36, of which 30 are in Bombay, 4 in Calcutta, and 1 in Delhi and 1 in Madras. These cases might have occurred, but the vast majority have been given. I hope this is a very small number and this will be looked into and expeditious action will be taken about them.

Then he referred to the need for restoration of the Auto Exchange at Gwalior. The total number of connections in Gwalior at the moment is 800. The rule is that unless the number is 1,000, we do not usually instal an automatic exchange. I hope that the number of lines in Gwalior will increase. At the same time, I do take note of the fact that Gwalior had an automatic system before and, therefore, its case should deserve preferential treatment.

As regards provision of a PCO at Aalot and Mahudpur, I would say that the scheme has been approved and detailed estimates are being sanctioned by the DPT, Jaipur.

PCO at Badnawar: In view of the policy to provide PCOs at Tehsil stations a loss of Rs. 1,500 per annum is involved although this matter is being reconsidered, as Badnawar is a tehsil station.

Construction of a departmental building for Ujjain Head PO.—There is a proposal to convert the existing sub-post office near the railway station into a head office by making certain additions and alterations in the

existing building, after a portion of it is vacated by the DTO for which a separate building has been ordered to be built.

Similarly as regards construction of staff quarters at Ujjain, plans and estimates are under preparation.

As regards opening of an RMS office at the railway station, Ujjain, a scheme has been sanctioned.

So I think Shri Radhelal Vyas deserves congratulations on the efforts that he has put in, in trying to bring all these points. We have been able to do whatever we could in the circumstances.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri referred to the need for opening a post office in Topla village. The difficulty has been that rules come in the way. But I can assure her that we shall again reconsider the matter and see whether her demand and the rules cannot be reconciled.

As regards installation of telephone connections in Karimpore and Swarupganj Ghat, no such proposal is at present under consideration. But since the lady Member has referred to it, we shall have this examined.

Shri P R Assar raised the issue of money orders and acknowledgement forms during the period of the strike. We shall do whatever we can in the circumstances, in the course of the strike, if unfortunately it materialises.

I shall now come to the subject of shipping. Shri Raghunath Singh, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri and Shri Goray referred to it. I may say that a comparison of our country with Japan, Germany and Italy is in this case out of place, because they have got a long maritime history and have been building tonnage for the last 100 years. We have started from a scratch. I only hope that in course of time we will be able to catch up. It is true that at present we can meet the needs of only 6 per cent of our traffic. But it has to be realised that in 1946 the

tonnage with which we started was only 1.27 lakhs. Now it has risen to 5.6 lakhs.

As regards expansion of Indian shipping during the Second Plan period, the allotment was Rs 37 crores and commitments covering the entire amount have already been made. During the first year of the Plan, 32 vessels new and second-hand have been acquired or ordered adding up 1.8 lakh GRT. Out of these, 13 were ordered abroad, 15 have been ordered from HSL and 4 second-hand including one tanker have already been acquired. Out of these 32 vessels, 18 are in private sector and 14 in public sector.

As regards the suggestion that foreign shipping companies should be registered in India, hon. Members know very well that our existing law follows the British Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. Now the right of registration extends to all Commonwealth citizens. We have now decided to bring forward our own registration to provide that only such ships can be registered in India as are owned exclusively or to a majority extent by Indian nationals or by companies registered in India. A Bill to this effect will be introduced shortly. If we allow foreigners to register, it might not be entirely free from danger at a time of crisis. It may prove to be a double-edged sword. There may even be a positive disadvantage because shipping is the life-line of a nation.

As regards the question of our nationals being allowed to register ships acquired by them in other countries like Costa Rica or a country like Liberia, this will mean loss of Indian tonnage. I am not quite sure whether this principle, if accepted, will also be healthy.

As to the question of foreign participation, there is no bar to it under the present law, although there are certain conditions which have to be observed. The conditions are (a) the steamers of the companies should

be registered in India, (b) at least 75 per cent of the shares and debentures of the companies should be held by Indians, (c) all the directors should be Indians, and (d) the managing agents, if any, should be Indians. These are not mandatory and in suitable cases, exemptions can be given. At any rate, partnership on the basis of 51:49 can always be considered.

As regards Konkan service, reference to which was made by Shri Assar, you will find that a committee presided over by Justice Lokur known as the Lokur Committee, was appointed in 1956. The Scindia company claimed an increase of 33-2/3 per cent, but the Lokur Committee allowed only 10 per cent, which we accepted. The company still complains that it is running at a loss, and Shrimati Maniben Patel pointed out that they also think of stopping the service. If it happens, it will be a bad thing.

But I may point out that despite the revision of fares,—the number of passengers and earnings have increased. Before revision in 1955-56, the number of passengers was 7,24,600 and earnings Rs 53,60,000, after revision, the corresponding figures are 7,70,000 and Rs 62,60,000. It will thus be seen that the service remains popular and is much in demand.

Then I will come to the question of ports.

We know that the planning of the ports as it is started rather late. In the First Five Year Plan they were considered to be local bodies. Of course for the first time, something was thought of them in about 1953. There were certain reasons for that. Despite all that, I think, whatever planning has been done should have normally been considered sufficient keeping in view the traffic or the traffic potential only.

Now, what has been done? The highlights are these. A new major port at Kandla with 4 berths is already completed and has come into being. This port has already handled nearly 5 lakh tons in 1956-57. The two other

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

big projects completed are the Marine Oil Terminals at Bombay and Visakhapatnam to serve the refineries. At Bombay, 11 big Transit Sheds have also been constructed.

Then comes the work that has been done regarding development. The other new berths already under construction in other ports are, 4 in Madras (2 being modernised and 2 new ones being constructed), 4 in Cochin, 4 in Calcutta (2 by reconversion of existing berths and 2 new ones) and 2 in Kandla. Six more berths are also to be built in Madras and 3 in Visakhapatnam. Thus there would be a total of 14 completed and 9 contemplated, 23 in all in the year.

The following figures of growth of traffic from 1950-51 are of interest. They will also show why it was not perhaps considered or why it could not be anticipated that there will be a sudden spurt in our shipping traffic of the type that we are faced with. The figures are very interesting.

In 1950-51, the total tonnage was only 18.9 million tons. On account of the food ships, it rose to 22.2 million tons in 1951-52. From 1952 onwards you will find that up to 1954, there was a downward incline. In 1952-53, it was 21.4 million tons, in 1953-54, 20.6 million tons, and in 1954-55, 20.4 million tons. In 1955-56, it began to rise 24.0 million tons and it went up to 27.3 million tons in 1956-57. Up to 1954-55, it could not have been reasonably anticipated, with the continuous fall in traffic, that a larger programme of reconstruction, remodelling or development would have to be undertaken. So, we cannot wholly blame the men responsible for it at that time. What happened was that there was a slight increase at that time. In the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan, the traffic did not hold out this prospect of a phenomenal increase and therefore we could not anticipate that.

In this connection, let us remember that a large number of food ships started coming from the beginning of

1957, also a large number of iron and steel ships have come and the 3 big steel plants too. We know the position as it was towards the end of 1955 or even the middle of 1955. The Calcutta port alone in 1956-57 handled 8 lakh tons of iron and steel as against 4 lakh tons in the previous year. How can I blame the operation and the performance at the Port? I will give these figures and then come to my conclusion. Bombay did 5.3 lakh tons of iron and steel as against 2.81 lakhs in the previous year; Madras did 1,57,000 tons of iron and steel as against 7,000 in the previous year; Visakhapatnam did 36,000 tons of iron and steel as against 13,000 in the previous year and Cochin 17,000 tons in 1956-57.

Now, as I said, it was only in December 1955 that the decision to import such large quantities of iron and steel was taken. The steel began to arrive in January, 1956, so soon after. That was the problem that faced us immediately. Between January 1956 and March, 1957, 15 lakhs tons of iron and steel would be imported; that was what was conveyed to the Ministry of Transport. The above figures will, of course, show that we have handled more and what happened later on was that the balance of iron and steel handled in the first three months of this financial year at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Visakhapatnam have even exceeded this target which was given to us.

I will give only 2 or 3 figures in respect of other machinery, machinery and plants for the industries. The total tonnage was .81 lakhs in the year 1953-54 and in 1956-57 it has gone up to 1.92 lakh tons. In Bombay also, it has risen from 1.59 lakh tons in 1953-54 to 2.83 lakh tons in 1956-57. In Madras, from 22,500 tons it has gone up to 56,000 tons.

For Bombay, as I said, earlier we were told that in respect of foodgrains 1 million tons will arrive there, out of the target of three million tons. We have already handled in the first quarter of the year 4.27 lakh tons. It means that it will come to an increase

of about 70 per cent over the estimated volume of traffic that was expected. This sudden shipment has arrived at our ports, food ships, iron and steel ships, steel plants, bunching of ships that followed the opening of the Suez Canal etc. It has been admitted that from both sides, through the Suez Canal and round the Cape of Good Hope the ships came in. Then the freight rates also went down. Previously there was a bottleneck created and there was pent up traffic which was suddenly released following lowering of freight rates and availability of space on shipping. All this resulted in delay and we found ourselves faced with a difficult situation. We can compare this perhaps with a situation in a railway station or a railway junction which has got two or three platforms and to which suddenly about 20 special trains are rushed through. What will happen? All the special trains will have to wait at the outer signal so long as the platforms are not cleared. So, will you blame the port, will you blame the labour or the port authorities? It is a sudden activity which has come into being. I am not apportioning the blame either on the Food Ministry or the Ministry of Iron and Steel because it came and had to be faced.

In this connection I may just point out to two or three figures that may be of interest—how the foodgrain shipments have increased from 1953-54 to 1957-58

1953-54	14 93 lakh tons
1954-55	13 71 lakh tons
1955-56	6 36 lakh tons
1956-57	20 36 lakh tons

suddenly and similarly for iron and steel

In 1953-54 it was	2 30 lakh tons,
1954-55	4 02 lakh tons,
1955-56	7 86 lakh tons, and in
1956-57	15 29 lakhs tons

With this increase, it should be borne in mind that the ports have tried to wrestle with the problem. They have done it as best as they could.

I am now coming to certain observations that have been made by one or two members. Shri Mohiuddin said that there was some discrepancy between a statement made by me and one made by Shri Nanda. Shri Nanda was worried about labour problems. I said I had not much reason to be disappointed at the performance of the labour in Calcutta port. I found that there was no congestion of cargo and I found the cargo handling capacity was also going up. Therefore I find that the criticism that has been levelled from some quarters was not quite correct. That does not mean that we are complacent. We have taken certain steps. They have been detailed some time ago and they have been put before the House previously.

May I also refer to an organisation to which although no reference was made in the House yet a reference may be of some interest. I mean the DRTA or the DTS. We know that it was established in 1950 on the 1st of April. There was shortage of fleet, there were no workshops, there was lack of numerous other facilities. The fleet position was that we had only 200 then but now we have 450. With the addition of 84 more Heavy Duty Diesel vehicles, it is expected to go up to 534 by the end of 1957. In operation the road mileage was 255 5 miles in 1950-51 and now in 1957, it is 357 miles. The daily mileage operated in 1950-51 was 17,000 miles and now it is 40,000 miles in 1957. The daily average number of buses on the road has increased from 142 in 1950 to 326 now.

We have increased the frequency of service. On one route we have tried a new experiment, that is, instead of one bus coming at one time two buses will come at the same time, so that any overflow from the queue may not be hanging over during the peak traffic time. This has been introduced as an experimental measure on Route No. 21, and I believe that it will be appreciated. Operation of high frequency service, maintenance of standby buses to meet break-down and introduction of scheme of advance bookings of passengers to ensure

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

stricter collection of fares, rationalisation of routes and other measures have contributed to some improvement of the service which has been reflected in the revenues. We have also erected certain depots which have come into being in 1956-57.

13 hrs

We have also done a good lot to improve the conditions of workers. We have introduced the time scale of pay. We have laid down the rules of service conditions. The other things that we have done are establishment of Contributory Provident Fund, provision of medical facilities to the employees and their families, provision of rest houses, provision of canteens, recreation and other facilities, introduction of insurance scheme, free legal defence to the employees prosecuted while on duty, operation of special buses for the convenience of the staff coming to work or breaking off outside the operation hours, and provision of residential quarters—180 have already been constructed at Shadipur and others are under construction.

Shri Jangde (Bilaspur) Sir, there are other Members also who would like to speak.

Shri Raj Bahadur. Should I continue or stop here?

Mr Speaker The hon Minister may leave something to his Chief.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi) He must be allowed to say something about tourism.

Shri Raj Bahadur I have tried to compress the facts, but there is so much to say. I think I may say about tourism and leave transport to my senior colleague.

About tourism I would only say that this is one of the ten biggest earners of foreign exchange in our country, and I think it has made very good progress. As has been reported many times, the number of tourists has

risen fairly well. The number this year was 70,000 to 75,000.

Some suggestions were made by hon Members. Tourist offices were proposed by Shri Radhelal Vyas and Dr K B Menon, and, if I am not mistaken, by Shri Subramanyam also. We have got 12 tourist offices at the moment. A decision has been taken to open three more at Bhubaneswar, Bhopal and Cochin. In Bhopal—Sanchi—we have already got a rest house and a tourist information office already operates there. In regard to the opening of a tourist office at Hampi, we will examine the point with the sympathy and care that it deserves.

Then I come to the points made by Shri M R Masani. He said that we spent only Rs 2 lakhs out of Rs 29 lakhs. I would only say that during the entire period of the First Five Year Plan we spent only a sum of Rs 1,46,800. I must at once confess however that I am not at all satisfied with the rate of expenditure and expansion, but we are a little handicapped here because we are tied up with the State Governments in the matter of expansion. They have to put up plans and we have to assist them. The position was that the State PWD will construct rest houses and provide amenities. We have not got the machinery to do it. Now the Central PWD has taken over the work and we hope that the results will be better. We shall do whatever we can in this direction.

He also mentioned about lack of transport facilities at Asansol for visitors to go to Damodar Valley. Same thing can be said about Bhakra Nangal, Khajuraho and Sanchi. We have got a provision of Rs 1.30 lakhs. I will see that it is utilised adequately and to the extent needed.

With regard to the Estimates Committee's recommendation to set up a Corporation or create a separate

department under the Director-General of Tourism, we are in full accord with this suggestion and we are having this examined. We shall come to a decision in regard to this matter before long.

I can assure Shri Jaipal Singh that all liaison, co-ordination and harmony are there in dealings between the Tourist Department on the one hand and the Air-India International on the other. The complaint pertaining to Paris has also been settled smoothly.

In regard to hotel industry, we have set up a Hotel Standard Committee under the chairmanship of Diwan Chaman Lai, who is expected to submit his report in about four months time. About formalities a high level committee was appointed by the Home Minister for making recommendations on the subject. Their recommendations were accepted in toto. A further review is going to take place, and I hope this will also be useful for the purpose we have kept in view.

Now I may refer to some of the things that we propose to do. We propose to set up a Tourist Development Council as recommended at the recent meeting of the Tourist Advisory Committee. It will be fully representative of the country as a whole and of all the official, semi-official and non-official interests concerning the promotion of tourism.

In order to ensure the necessary and suitable amenities for tourists, it is proposed that the Transport Department should directly maintain and manage a certain number of rest houses which are located near the most important monuments of the country likely to be visited by tourists.

It is also proposed to introduce legislation for the sound functioning of various elements constituting the tourist trade e.g. travel agencies, guides, hotel establishments, etc.

We propose to put special emphasis and take great care of home tourism, because in the development of home

tourism, in the promotion and encouragement of tourist traffic from north to south and east to west lies the surest way of achieving what is known as the emotional integration of people. I think the progress that we should be making this year and in the next year might be considered noteworthy, that is our expectation.

Then, I must refer here to a development of which, I think, we can be rightly proud of. We have got many international organisations the most important of which is the International Union of Official Travel Organisations—IUOTO. More than 60 governments are its members. It has been unanimously decided by the Executive Committee of this body to elect Shri Chibb, who happens to be the head of the Department of Tourism in our Ministry, as its President for the next year—November 1957 to October 1958. The election will take place at the next annual session to be held in Washington on the 3rd November, 1957. This is only a formal affair. Once the Executive Council decides in favour of a particular person it is naturally accepted by the larger general body. So, the recognition of the merit and ability of one of our officers by an international body of this stature is a matter of which the Department of Tourism and also the country can be proud. I think it will also bring us the fairest returns in the shape of foreign exchange, because by his going there a lot of flood light will be thrown on Indian tourism and Indian tourist centres. It will, therefore, be a sort of double blessing. Therefore, I welcome it, and I hope the House will appreciate the merit that this officer has shown.

With these few words, Sir, I thank you very much for the time that you have allowed me and I apologise to the Members of this House for having taken too much of their own time.

Mr. Speaker Voting on these Demands can only be done after 14.30.

[Mr. Speaker]

I will call upon the hon. Minister at 13.45. He will have about 45 minutes. I would, therefore, request hon. Members to be brief.

Shri Anthony Pillai (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to criticise the lack of imagination and inaptitude of the Transport Ministry. It will be admitted on all sides that the king-pin of the success of the Second Five Year Plan depends on our ability to solve the transport problem. The Government of India have invited specialists to advise them on this particular problem; in particular, they invited Mr. Galbraith, an eminent economist from America, to advise them in regard to some of these problems. His most pertinent criticism, Sir, is that too heavy an emphasis has been laid on railway development. He has pointed out that out of Rs. 4800 crores to be spent on the Second Five Year Plan, about one-fourth—Rs. 1200 crores—is to be reserved for railways, of which 50 per cent will be devoted to purchases from abroad. He has, therefore, suggested that a great deal of emphasis should be placed on developing other forms of transport.

This is an advice of commonsense, and let us see how far his advice of commonsense has in practice been followed. Let us first take shipping. As early as 1947, the Shipping Policy Committee made a recommendation that India should, within a period of five to seven years, build up a mercantile marine of 20 lakh tons.

In our first Five Year Plan we were rather modest and we set the target of 6 lakh tons. But even this modest target was not fulfilled and we were able to add only an additional one lakh ton making it roughly about 4,50,000 tons. In the second Five Year Plan, we have set ourselves again a modest target of only nine lakh tons. But, according to the administration report of the Transport Ministry, the entire allocation of Rs. 37 crores has

already been spent in either ordering second-hand ships or placing orders for new ships. Assuming that all these ships that have been ordered including those from the Hindustan Shipyard, Ltd., are added to our mercantile marine fleet and assuming that none of the existing ships are scrapped because they are obsolete or for any other reason, even then, our total tonnage will only increase upto 7 lakh tons.

Now, I am glad that they have spent the money in an expeditious way in ordering ships from abroad, because the amount of foreign exchange earned, with even half of our shipping engaged in overseas trade is a considerable amount. Even though only about 2 lakh tons were engaged on foreign trade, within one year they have increased the total earnings from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 13 crores. I am therefore, making the suggestion that it would be advisable if a large sum of money is allocated for the purpose of increasing our tonnage through immediate purchase of ships from abroad, particularly when foreign shipping interests have increased their freight rates by 15 to 20 per cent.

Now let us take road transport. A considerable amount of money is sought to be spent on the building of roads. The total allocation in the second Plan period including the allocation for the States comes to about Rs. 250 crores. But let us look at the question as to whether these roads are being put to proper use. The total amount of motor trucks available in India for the transport of goods on these roads is only one lakh. Taking into account depreciation, with each one of these trucks costing about Rs. 10,000 the total investment in road transport is a very trivial amount, compared to the amount that we propose to spend on the building of roads. We do not want to build up road merely for the sake of saying that we have fulfilled the targets set in the Nagpur Plan. In my humble submission, of we really want to take the advice of

diverting our traffic from the railways to the road haulage, then obviously it is necessary to revise our entire attitude with regard to road transport. It is not merely a question—I repeat again—of building roads but to see how many vehicles will be plying on the roads, in which case we will have to completely revise our policy regarding the heavy taxation of motor vehicles. If instead of taxing motor vehicles in such a way that only railways are likely to benefit,—on the other hand,—if we adopt the attitude that it will not be wise to put up such heavy investment on railways, the net result of which will only be seen several years later, and which in the present context is very dangerous, having a very strong inflationary potential, it will be advisable, even though it may mean spending some of the existing balances, to allocate a large sum for the purchase of motor vehicles, because the inflationary potential will be reduced.

Therefore, my humble submission is that this Ministry has absolutely no policy with regard to road transport, although they are interested in seeing that certain number of roads are built, but with regard to whether those roads are properly utilised, or not, there is no policy at all. There are no facts available, there has been no study undertaken with regard to what percentage of transport can be diverted from the railways to road haulage.

Then again, the Deputy Minister has given us a long series of facts with regard to port facilities with regard to the needs of the Port Transport Industry, when the first Five Year Plan was drafted, they completely forgot about it. Half way through the first Plan, some schemes were hastily drafted and a sum of about Rs 60 crores was finally sanctioned.

Shri Raj Bahadur: They were classed as local bodies, and did not fall within the purview of the Plan.

Shri Anthony Pillai: I am speaking about the major ports. Out of these Rs 60 crores, only about Rs 25 crores were spent. In the second Five Year

Plan it is proposed that we spend Rs 90 crores. For this 90 crore scheme, the actual allocation is only Rs 45 crores. The rest is supposed to come from the local resources of ports which is modestly estimated at only Rs 15 crores. Therefore, we must presume that for the balance of Rs. 30 crores, we will have to beg for foreign assistance. Time and again, it has been pointed out that because we have allowed our port authorities at Madras, Calcutta and Bombay to be under the grip of vested interests, shipping and commercial interests, it has not been possible to raise the rates in such a way that the port authorities themselves will be able to find the necessary resources to build up their ports. It has been pointed out over and over again that these reactionary and conservative vested interests refuse to increase the port rates to find the funds to build up the ports. There have been many complaints about it till finally the Government of India jogged them on to produce some plan. The Deputy Minister today pointed out that merely because the tonnage handled through the ports went down during the last years of the first Five Year Plan they were not seriously concerned about the ports. In other words, they lack imagination with regard to the demands that will be made on the ports and about their future expansion.

The suggestion that I want to make with regard this is this. I am making this suggestion with regard to these port trust bodies which we find in Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. Either we should scrap them or alternately, reorganise them in such a way that the weightage that is being given to the present Chambers of Commerce is reduced, weightage should be given to labour, or alternately, I would suggest that at least with regard to the fixation of rates, this power may be taken out of their purview. May I suggest that a committee be appointed by the Government of India to review these rates, because some of these rates are highly competitive in the sense that one port puts down the rate with the

[Shri Anthony Pillai]

idea of attracting a certain type of cargo which, for instance, in another port such as Cochin may handle with ease. My submission, therefore is that a committee may be appointed to review these rates.

Let us look into the finances of the port authorities. Last year, or the year before last, the total deficit of the Calcutta Port Commissioner was Rs. 60 lakhs. As a result of certain amount of jogging by the Government of India, these rates have been increased and there has been no deficit last year. Then again, we are proposing to set apart Rs. 90 crores on port development. Even if all these schemes are executed, what is the total increase in the port handling capacity that we expect? We expect only 30 per cent. That is all the total increase, that we expect, as a result of this expenditure of Rs. 90 crores. On the other hand, my submission with regard to the expansion of port handling capacity is, that the problem does not depend entirely on improving the port facilities. It depends largely on solving the labour problem. As long ago as 1954, with the failure of the Transport and the Labour Ministries to solve any problems, the various labour unions at the major ports of Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Vizagapatnam and Cochin joined themselves into a federation and brought it to the notice of the Transport Ministry that there were anomalies, that there was no system of uniform pay-scales, etc. Some ports gave a large number of holidays and some others did not. In one port, the scale for a skilled labourer is Rs. 55-180 and in another port, it is Rs. 40-70. At that time, when the federation threatened the Government with a total strike in all the major ports, the Government came out with the excuse that a Dock-workers Regulation Enquiry Committee was going to be constituted and that the question of revising the wages would be gone into. The particular experiment in Bombay, of revising the wage rates for the dock workers, for the shore

and stevedore workers, has had considerable success. As a result of giving some inducement to labour they were able to get the co-operation of labour, such that the tonnage handled through the Port of Bombay has increased by 60 per cent. What Rs. 90 crores cannot achieve, a more effective solution of the labour problem was able to achieve and the tonnage handled was almost doubled by adopting the progressive piece-rate system. It was suggested that the piece rate system might be extended to the other ports, like Madras and Calcutta also. Again, it was necessary to give notice of a strike to make the Government yield on this question.

In November last year, the Government advised the workers federation not to go on strike. They said, an officer on special duty would be appointed; that he would submit an interim report as quickly as possible and that the issue of having uniform scales of pay and uniform conditions of service would also be referred to that special officer. Though I understand that the officer has submitted his interim report, Government has taken no decisions on them as yet. We had another strike of workers in Bombay before solutions for some of the problems, like equalisation of leave facilities were considered by the Ministry.

Mr. Jeeji Bhai has been requested to frame a piece-rate system for the Calcutta port, so that the port-handling there might be improved, on the lines of the scheme obtaining in the Bombay port. Though the unions which came to the conference agreed in principle to the introduction of the piece-rate system, I understand an INTUC organisation has refused to serve on this committee, merely because it hopes to utilise the difficulties of the transition to the piece-rate system to its own advantage. But the INTUC has simultaneously been given representation by the Govt. of India on boards like the Dock Labour Board and the Port Commission. If there is a conference

where the union representatives come and agree in principle to something and then go back on it, I do not see why Government should continue to give them representation on these bodies. Either the Government are interested in solving this long-standing problem, which if solved would be of immense help to the nation or alternatively, they are interested in building up the INTUC and letting the whole question of transport in Calcutta go to the dogs.

During the last few years, many problems have been placed before the Ministry and yet, no effective steps have been taken to solve the problems of labour, which would improve work in the ports. The Dock Workers' Employment Regulation Act was passed in 1948 and 8 years have passed since then. Yet, decasualisation of labour has not been introduced in Cochin or Visakhapatnam. For 8 long years they have been merely talking of decasualisation of labour. In Madras there are three categories of shore workers doing the same work with three types of pay. The decasualised worker gets about Rs. 100. For doing the same work, a worker in B category gets Rs. 60 and a C category worker gets only Rs. 40 to Rs. 50. The same applies to the Calcutta port. This differential pay for the same type of work cannot possibly lead to industrial contentment, and so long as there is no industrial contentment, there can be no improvement in the tonnage handled.

Lastly, the hon. Deputy Minister...

Mr. Speaker: He is Minister; he has earned it by hard work.

Shri Anthony Pillai: I am sorry. The Minister referred to the problem of the P. & T. workers. As far as the question of P. & T. workers is concerned, there is a crisis of confidence and a crisis of prestige. The crisis of confidence arises in this way. The Government says, we will refer this matter of interim relief to the Commission and surely the Commission can be trusted to deal with this question in an impartial manner. Then,

why should the employees be so difficult about going to the Commission and asking for interim relief? If they have a good case, the Commission will give them the relief asked for. On the other hand, it is quite clear that they have got a good case. Even from the figures given a few minutes ago, it will be seen that the cost of living has risen considerably. We have already got the first Pay Commission's recommendation. The first Pay Commission, after all, is not of secondary status to the Pay Commission that is sought to be appointed.

The first Pay Commission recommended that there should be a sliding scale of dearness allowance, that for every 20 point increase in the cost of living, there should be a corresponding increase of Rs. 5 in the dearness allowance. Government does not seek to justify why this recommendation has not been implemented. This particular agitation among Central Government employees is no new feature. It is a biennial feature. In 1949, there was an agitation, as a result of which the D. A. was increased by Rs. 10. In 1951, there was some kind of strike-threat and the D. A. was increased by Rs. 5. In 1953, as a result of an agitation, some workers got increased emoluments though 50 per cent. of the D. A. merged with basic pay. So, this agitation among Central Government employees is a biennial feature of our economic life. In fact, the present agitation has come after a long time. Since 1953, there has been no agitation worth the name.

After all, what the workers are demanding today is only the implementation of an authoritative body's recommendation, viz that of the first Pay Commission. But the Government turns round and say, "We are appointing a second Pay Commission; let them also endorse it". That is why I submit that this is really a crisis of confidence. Even after the promise to appoint the second Pay Commission, the workers are not quite sure whether the Government will actually honour any recommendation made by the second Pay Commission,

[Shri Anthony Pillai]

even on the question of interim relief. They, the Government, have failed to accept and implement the recommendation of the first Pay Commission. Equally the same attitude may be adopted with regard to the second Pay Commission also. Hence there is a crisis of confidence.

There is also a crisis of prestige, as far as the Government is concerned. On account of the fact that the cost of living has increased, undoubtedly the workers can claim at least a right to the preservation of the existing standards of living. The workers might be advised not to ask for higher real wages because we have to see that the second Five Year Plan succeeds, but at least with regard to the existing standards of living, they have got an inherent right to demand that at least this should be preserved. Therefore, I submit this is really a crisis of prestige. We are witnessing this crisis of prestige in very small matters. Let us take the question of the Delhi firing...

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed the hon Member sufficient time and he has made his points. He is only elaborating them.

Shri Anthony Pillai: I shall conclude shortly. The hon. Home Minister was saying, "we are ready to order a judicial enquiry", but when the opposition Members wanted clarification as to whether he would appoint a High Court Judge, he refused to give the clarification, because it became a question of prestige. The attitude of the Government is, "it should not be given as a result of a demand by the opposition; we will give it in our own sweet way." That is why this is really a crisis of prestige. I venture to hope that these two crises will be resolved.

Shri Mohamed Imam (Chitaldrug): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this vital matter. It has become more vital on account of the impending threat of strike, which is expected to materialise tonight.

I am going to deal with three aspects on this demand. One is the development of ports; the second is the development of inland communications including roads, and the third is Posts and Telegraphs, which forms the important subject-matter today. India is a vast country with a long coastline of more than 3,500 miles. It must be admitted that taking the length of the coastline and the vastness of the country, we are having very few ports, especially major ports. I may also point out to the Minister concerned that on the west coast, except Bombay, we have not got even a single port which adds to our business or which aids towards the development of our industry. Kandla, I think, aids the businessmen who are living in the north. After the reorganisation of the States, it is important that every State should have a port of its own. We cannot minimise the importance of a port. It aids towards the development of the business, towards the development of industry and it is quite necessary in these modern times.

The Second Five Year Plan contemplates the development of some ports on the west coast, Mangalore, Malpe and Bhatkal are the important ports which are contemplated to be developed. I regret Government has not taken any active step. I may refer, in this connection, to the development of Bhatkal port which is immediately connected with the State of Mysore. The Public Works Minister of the Government of Mysore has announced many a time that the Government of India contemplates the starting of a shipbuilding yard in this port. I may also give support to that venture because the Government of Mysore is keenly interested in this port. When Shri M. Visweswaraya was the Dewan, he was deeply interested in this and he did his best to have this port transferred to the Government of Mysore. But, the Government of Bombay was against it. Since then, the Government of Mysore has been trying to see that this port is developed.

and shipbuilding industry started there. I hope the Government will devote sufficient attention to this and see that the State of Mysore will have a port of its own. I may also point out that the Government should bestow as much attention as possible towards the development of Mangalore and Malpe which are quite necessary in these days. I request the Government to see that these ports materialise at the end of the Second Plan.

Similarly on the east coast, I think, except Madras, they have not got any port worth the name. There are a number of places which can be developed and which can contribute a good deal to the material prosperity of the country. For example, there is Negapatam, Kakinada. I wish the Government takes up the development of these ports seriously and sees that they are accomplished facts. I may point out in this connection that in advanced countries, for example, England, for every 100 miles they have a well developed port. It is the life blood of every industry and every business. I hope the Government will devote greater attention to this and see that all these ports which are still in their infancy, develop and add to the material prosperity of the country.

I now come to the development of roads and communications. Roads have been divided into three categories: highways, roads maintained by the State Governments and roads maintained by the local bodies. I must admit that the roads which are classified as highways have been receiving good attention and they are in a good state of repairs. I may say that these roads have really been serving the need for which they are intended. But, I cannot say the same thing of the roads that are maintained by the States and by the local bodies. They have spent crores of rupees, but I may say that these roads are being neglected. Many of these roads are in rack and ruin. That is because the States, on account of their financial bankruptcy, are not in a position to

maintain them in a proper way. So also the local bodies. I know you have set apart a good grant towards the maintenance of these roads. First of all, you must not only develop the new roads you must see that the existing roads receive proper attention and they are properly maintained. We must also see that they are not allowed to deteriorate any further.

Coming to posts and telegraphs, we know we are meeting in a deep set atmosphere. Today is the zero day when the strike threat is likely to be carried out. The whole country is agitated. If the strike really materialises, the entire normal life will be upset and the public will be put to a lot of inconvenience. There are strikes and strikes. There are strikes in which only two parties are involved, that is the employer and the employee. But, there are strikes in which the public is intimately involved and in which it is intimately concerned. There are strikes which affect the entire state, the entire country. There may be a strike in a local factory. It affects only the employer in this factory and the employees. Or, there may be a strike in a Government local factory. That does not do much harm. But, some strikes are very harmful. They cause widespread distress and harm throughout the country. This strike is one of such a nature.

Today, the Prime Minister made a detailed statement. It looks from that statement that not much approach has been made towards reconciliation. It looks that the strike will come.

An Hon. Member: What more do you want?

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): The Pay Commission has been appointed.

Shri B. S. Murthy: He is coming to the same thing. There is nothing more to be done.

Shri Mohamed Imam: We are all anxious that this strike should not materialise. It must be averted at any cost. The Government on the

[Shri Mohamed Imam]

one side and those that have sponsored this strike on the other, must think not only of themselves, but of the country, of the people who will be the ultimate sufferers. These are days of epidemics of strikes. It is not merely the postal department or the telegraphs department that is going on strike. Various other departments also are threatening to go on strike. Railway station masters are also thinking of going on strike. Primary school teachers are also thinking of going on strike. The Central Government employees also are thinking of going on strike. It will not end there. It will gradually spread to the State Governments. You know there is dissatisfaction amongst the State employees, that they are low paid and under-paid than the Central Government employees. He can take it from me that this problem is to be solved not merely in relation to one department, it has to be solved for the entire country, for all the departments. A strike is a contagion, and it is not a simple problem. It is a very big problem. It involves the interests of the country, it involves the future of the country. We have to consider it not as a single issue, but as an issue of not only the present but the future. At the same time it is a good thing that it has been referred to a commission presided over by a Supreme Court Judge, and it is quite necessary that a judicious mind is exercised while resolving the various problems.

I know the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been asking for a rise in their emoluments, but the most essential thing to be considered is this. The emoluments or the pay and allowances must have some reference to the national income of the country, the income of the State. I know these employees are very hard hit, they are struggling for a normal and peaceful sustenance, but the commission has to consider this question as a whole as an economic problem, as to how far the country's resources or income can admit an

extra increase in their pay and emoluments.

I can state that more than 60 per cent. of the entire income is being diverted to pay and allowances. To what further extent the resources can stand the strain is a matter to be considered.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Shri Mohamed Imam: Five minutes more.

Secondly, the entire economic problem of the State has to be considered. It has been pointed out that if any extra increase is given to all these people, it involves crores and crores of rupees. So, we must admit that to meet the demands of all the P. & T. workers, the railway workers, the Central Government and also State employees, we will require hundreds and hundreds of crores of rupees, and naturally this amount must come through taxation. The people have to be taxed. We cannot get that amount out of nothing, out of a vacuum. So, this is also a matter to be considered.

Of course, now with our abundant sympathy for the low paid officials, we can support their claim, we can press the Government to increase their pay, but we have to consider the cumulative effect, the effect it will have on the country and the fact that the Government will have to find crores and crores of rupees. How to get that amount? Are we agreeable to tax the people to that extent, can we ask the people to contribute? These are all matters to be considered very patiently. This is not a matter in which a decision can be taken off-hand and suddenly.

There are various other problems also. The per capita income of 70 per cent of the people in the country is between Rs 100 and 150 per annum. Thirty per cent of the population are agricultural labourers who have no assured means of income, who have

no means of sustenance and who are leading a precarious life. The income of 40 per cent. of the ryots does not exceed Rs. 100 per month and their average holding is five to ten acres. It is a matter for consideration how to improve their economic condition, whether the pay and allowances of the officers should have any bearing on the income of the people, of the other classes of people who have been following other avocations. These are all matters which require a deep study, a close scrutiny. The entire economic condition of the State has to be examined, the resources available have to be examined.

So, with all my sympathy for these people, I think it is a matter in which they should go slow. This is a matter in which mutual discussion, negotiation will yield a better result than taking an abrupt step. If they take this abrupt step and precipitate a strike, what will be the consequence? The entire population of 400 millions will be effected, business will come to a stand still, commerce will be spoiled, and as I said already, it is not merely two parties that are involved. Three parties are involved, namely the employer, the employees and the people. You must consider the interests of the people, we must have their interests foremost at heart.

So, even now I appeal that with all our sympathy for them, and though we support their aspirations, they must not precipitate matters, they must go slow, they must think of the millions of people to whom they are wedded to serve. If they precipitate it, the people will be in trouble, and it will be committing a sort of breach of faith.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, he advises them to call off the strike. The House must know what exactly the hon. Member's opinion is.

Shri Mohamed Imam: This is a matter in which, as I said, the people are involved. I have no objection to support a strike in which the people

are not involved, but in a matter where the people are involved, where their happiness is involved, where their well-being is concerned, they should not precipitate matters. It can be adjusted only by negotiation, goodwill.

Even now there is time, five hours time. Let them think of the large number of people, the population entrusted to their care, because all the money comes from the people, it is the people who have been contributing towards their pay, that have been sustaining them. I know all the money earned in the rural area goes to the urban area. Seventy per cent. of the income derived from the people goes towards their maintenance. So, let them think of the people, the misery that will be caused by such a move. Let them not stand on prestige. There is no question of prestige when the people's interests are concerned.

Even now there is time, because it is never too late. There is hope as long as there is life. The strike is scheduled to commence from midnight tonight, the zero hour. Let them think of it and go slow. Otherwise I should say Government servants are thinking too much of themselves, they are guided by their own interests, they are not thinking of the country.

Shri Raj Bahadur: In regard to the development of roads and bridges in and around Mangalore and the development of the port, may I inform the hon. Member that hon. Member Shri Malliah has been very vigorously pursuing this matter, that the investigations in regard to the port have almost been completed and the sanctions in regard to the roads and bridges have already been given? I think the thing will be done in good time.

In regard to the proposal for the development of port of Geouchali also that appears to be the only answer to the growing problems of Calcutta. We are very seriously

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

examining the question of the development of a port at Geonkhali too.

Shri Mohamed Imam: Bhatkal too, because the Mysore Ministers have been anxious about Bhatkal port.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The hon. Member who was speaking just now referred to the threat of strikes in various Departments of the Government of India. I know this threat of strikes is exercising the minds of hon. Members of this House as well as thousands and thousands of people outside this House. I would, therefore, like to say a few words on that first, and then deal with other matters.

I might, to start with, inform the House that the Civil Aviation Department Employees' Union have withdrawn their strike today at 12.15 p.m. And I am told the P. & T. Federation is still holding its meeting, and it is also considering as to what its final decision should be.

I would like to inform the House that I have felt somewhat pained over the way things have proceeded. My colleague, Shri Raj Bahadur has given a detailed account of the way in which he has met the office-bearers of the Federation a number of times, and the various demands he was able to meet; and there are many other demands, as he said, which are still under the consideration of Government. Anyhow, I do not want to go into past history. What has happened during the last fortnight or twenty days is important for me and for the House just at present.

The strike notice which was given to us contained two schedules of demands, schedule I and schedule II. Schedule I especially referred to the appointment of a pay commission. In schedule II there are about seven demands, on which I would like to say a few words.

Regarding schedule I, the appointment of the pay commission has

already been announced. I personally thought that that was their major demand. The commission of enquiry—of course, it has not been termed as a pay commission—has already been announced, and its terms of reference have also been placed before the House. They are fairly wide and comprehensive, and I think that they cover almost all the points referred to recently either by the Federation or other Union leaders or workers.

When we come to schedule II, we find that the main demand there is that dearness allowance should be fixed and regulated in accordance with the recommendations of the first Central Pay Commission. The question of dearness allowance and the increase in dearness allowance will naturally be considered by the commission which is going to be appointed.

Then, their next demand was that in the matter of leave, leave reserve, medical attendance and pension, the class III and class IV employees should be brought on the same level. In so far as leave and medical attendance are concerned, they have already been put on the same level. Regarding pension, some liberalisation has already been done. The question of travelling allowance and daily allowance is still under consideration.

There are other demands like weekly off, night coefficient, working hours and some other matters. As hon. Members are aware, in the terms of reference of the commission which is going to be appointed, it has been made clear that the conditions of service and certain other matters are also to be considered by that body. These have been included in the terms of reference, and, therefore, I do not think there could be any reason for the Federation or any other organisation to take objection to the fact on the ground that this has not been conceded.

As regards their fifth demand, namely the merger of dearness allowance with pay, I need not say that that will

naturally be considered by the commission.

Now, there are two other matters which are more or less departmental, concerning only the P & T Department. One is about the extra-departmental staff, and other is about the Assam compensatory allowance. As regards the extra departmental staff, the principle has already been explained to the House by Shri Raj Bahadur. It was said that that matter also should be referred to the pay commission. They are not regular Government of India employees. In the circumstances, I do not think it would be possible to refer their case to the commission. But I might inform the House that I have my—I do not want to use the word 'sympathy' but if the hon. Members would not mind it—a feeling that the problems of the extra-departmental staff are to be looked into, gone into, and something has to be done to give them further relief. I have, therefore, decided to appoint a committee, a separate committee, to go into that matter, and I hope it would be possible to announce the committee within a week's time.

As regards the question of Assam compensatory allowance, the matter is still under the consideration of Government, and we have not been able to take the final decision, because it had to be referred to various other Ministries, and so, there has been some confusion. Some points have to be further clarified from other Ministries, and I hope it would be possible to do so within a short period of time.

But I can further say on that matter too, because I personally feel that as some form of assurance was given by my colleague Shri Raj Bahadur some time back, it would be in the fitness of things that the assurance given by Shri Raj Bahadur should be fulfilled. I cannot exactly tell the House what the rate of the compensatory allowance would be, and to which areas it would be given. But I have no difficulty in telling the House that I hope that

a satisfactory decision will be taken, and I do hope that it will be a satisfactory decision, not merely from my point of view, but it will be a decision which would give satisfaction to the workers of the P & T Department and especially those working in the Assam State.

Formerly, the main question which had cropped up was the appointment of a pay commission. As I said, I was under the impression that when a commission of enquiry was going to be constituted, it would go a very long way to satisfy the sentiments of the workers also. But it seems the Federation and other organisations felt that some form of interim relief should also be given. Hon. Members might be aware that the day the announcement of the appointment of the Commission was made by my colleague, the Finance Minister, I gave a interview to the A.I.R. and made it clear that the question of interim relief would be referred to the Commission. We stuck to what we had said before. Hon. Members are also aware that when the Federation met the Prime Minister, they had a long talk with him on other matters, but when the Prime Minister left, the question of interim relief was raised and they were told by both Shri Nanda and myself that the matter of interim relief would be referred to the Commission. As I have already said, I made the same declaration the day the announcement of the Commission was made.

14 hrs

There is no doubt that the question of interim relief would be referred to the Commission and the Commission can submit an interim report on that matter. Of course, no orders can be issued to the Commission, but when a particular matter is included in the notification which will now be issued, and if it is said that the Commission will submit an interim report, they will surely consider this matter as quickly as possible and submit their report on the particular question referred to them.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.]

It will also be open to the Commission to suggest the date from which it should be effective. I think any Commission or every Commission is free to suggest any date from which a particular recommendation of theirs is to be implemented. So on that point I have nothing further to say. I think these are matters which should be left to the Commission for consideration and decision.

Some of our colleagues and friends have felt that we have gone very far and we have conceded almost all what the workers wanted. I am sorry I do not hold that opinion, because I feel that the workers, whether they are of the P. & T. or of other departments, have at the present moment difficult problems to face.

14.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

As the Finance Minister has himself said, in the present context of our financial position, we are faced with enormous difficulties. The workers undoubtedly are faced with greater difficulties in so far as their daily life is concerned. Of course, we had no alternative. We did feel, and I did strongly feel, that the question of strike should not have been raised at all. It is a mistake on the part of the Federation or the workers to have thought that we would never consider these matters till the threat of a strike was given. But somehow they have not got that faith which is really painful. I have told the leaders of the Federation that they should have some faith in us. When I say that we are prepared to consider, I never said that the appointment of a Pay Commission or Commission of Inquiry was ruled out. I never ruled it out right from the very beginning. I had always said that this was a matter which could not be decided only by the Communications Ministry; it was a matter to be decided by Government as a whole.

Therefore, I wanted the leaders and the workers of the P. & T. to wait and see what the decision of Government would be on this particular matter. But they were impatient. They had so little faith that they decided to give this strike notice which has created enormous difficulties for us. I do not know what they are going to decide. Personally I think it would be the height of unreasonableness on their part if they do not reconsider their attitude. But it is quite clear—I do not want to offend them—that they must realise that while they can certainly start a strike and they go on and paralyse the work of the administration for sometime in so far as the P. & T. is concerned, the position is such that I do not think it would be possible for them to paralyse the work of the P. & T. for a long time, or even more than a few days. Why I say this is because—of course, we will make our own arrangements—the public support is not there. They have not got the moral support of the public. People do realise and understand it very well—hon. Members must have seen the comments of various newspapers on this matter—that the Government and the Prime Minister have gone to the farthest limit possible, and the people feel that this is not the time for the P. & T. workers to go on a strike.

Another thing—some hon. Members might get annoyed at this—is that the workers themselves, quite a large number of them, do not want to go on strike. I say so with some confidence. I have kept myself in touch with a large number of workers and I have received a large number of letters and resolutions by Unions—different units, small units, divisional units—saying that they do not want to participate in this strike. They consider our stand to be fairly reasonable. Of course, they have their further demands which they say they will come and discuss with us. But they do not want to go on strike and

create difficulties for the Government as well as for the people.

Still when the call for a strike is there, it becomes very difficult for the workers to remain behind. They joint it, of course in the heat of the moment. But they realise perhaps very soon that this was not correct and they want to come back to their duties. This is not generally liked by the strikers. Then all kinds of difficulties arise and then you might say, there might be coercion, threatening of those who want to join the work, violence, conflict—all these things arise which create difficulties for the Government and create doubts and suspicions in the people's mind also.

That is a very bad situation. I do not want to enter into a discussion of it because I thought we would get the good news of the P. & T. strike also having been withdrawn. I am sorry I have not got it so far. But I want to tell the House one thing very frankly. Let there be a strike, but a peaceful strike, completely peaceful. Let those who want to go to work be freely allowed to do so and let those who do not want to work be allowed to do so; let no one coerce them, neither the Government nor the officers. They should not come in their way. But those who really want to work should not be prevented from going to work. It will then be a fair and clear test whether the workers are willing to work or not.

Some friends talk of coercion etc. being exercised by Government officers. I say sometimes coercion is exercised by others who believe in strikes and who feel that since the strike will fail or that there is any fear of the strike not succeeding, they start adopting methods which create difficulties. Of course, the right of strike is there. Therefore, when the strike is resorted to in this country we should try to remain peaceful and carry on the strike peacefully. And, if it is found that the strike is not going to succeed, the workers who want to work should be freely allowed to work and the federation or the

organisations which are there should quietly call off the strike. But that kind of thing is not generally taking place in our country, and unfortunate happenings take place. So, I would advise the P. & T. workers or those who are the leaders of the federation that in case they want to go on strike they should think 100 times as to how the strike has to be conducted. I have no doubt that if it is conducted peacefully, they will realise in three days' time that the workers are not with them.

I wanted to say something on our developmental and expansion work which we propose to take up in the P. & T. Department. But I do not know whether there is enough time for this. However, I shall say a few words at the end if there is time.

I shall now say something about shipping. Shri Raghunath Singh spoke on the development of shipping. He was right when he said that the shipping development in our country has been very meagre so far and we have not made sufficient advance in that regard. He quoted Japan and the case of Western Germany. It is true that those countries have developed very much and we are far behind them. But, we should not forget the fact that those countries, even after the war, had the base for the development. For example, they had their own shipbuilding yards. They had the technical personnel available and they had other facilities. I shall not mention the names of the countries. But I know the two countries where shipping development has taken place on a very large scale were provided with enough resources even financially. So, it has been possible for those countries and for Italy, Japan or West Germany to develop their shipping after the war on a considerable scale.

I am not quite satisfied with the progress we have made. But the House should know that in 1946, our tonnage on the coast was only about 1,27,000 tons and it consisted of 49 ships only. At present we have 2,40,000 tons and the number of ships has increased

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

from 49 to 82. Then, on the overseas side, before 1947, none of our vessels were plying in the overseas trade but today we have as many as 47 ships aggregating to 3,20,000 tons employed exclusively on the overseas trade. We have now regular liner services between India on the one hand and the U.K., the Continent and Japan and Australia on the other. Recently, a service has been started to cover the India-West Africa trade. We have also a regular passenger-cum-cargo service between India and East Africa and between India and Singapore. Another shipping service has also been started between India and the Black Sea ports of USSR.

The House is aware that in order to promote the development of overseas shipping, Government have promoted two shipping Corporations. The first, the Eastern Shipping Corporation. As the House is aware, it was set up in conjunction with the Scindia Steam Navigation Company. It was set up in March 1950. Up to August 1956, the Scindias were the managing agents of this Corporation. Since then the management has been taken over by a Managing Director appointed by Government who functions under the supervision of the Board of Directors. The shares of the Scindias in this Corporation have now been purchased by Government and this is now a cent per cent Government undertaking.

The House will be glad to note that the Eastern Shipping Corporation made a profit of about Rs. 31 lakhs. The accounts for the year 1956-57 have not been finalised yet but the first calculation shows that during this year the Corporation would make quite good profits.

The constitution of another shipping corporation, the Western Shipping Corporation is entirely under the aegis of the Government of India and this Corporation has already purchased a tanker and has placed 5 orders on Hindustan Shipyard and 4 orders on foreign shipping yards.

I must admit that the private sector has also made commendable efforts in this direction and we have also done well on our side, that is, in the public sector. I might refer here to the fact that Government has given loans to the extent of Rs. 24 crores in the first plan period and to the extent of Rs. 12.5 crores in the second plan period to the private sector. With the aid of these loans, the companies have added to the Indian fleet about 37 ships totalling about 2,14,000 tons, and 10 ships totalling about 68,000 tons are at various stages of construction.

Another important point worth mentioning is that ships built in the Visakhapatnam shipyard are sold to the Indian Shipping Companies on the basis of what is known as the U.K. parity price. This involved Government in the payment of constructional subsidy to the extent of about 20 per cent of the actual cost of construction of each ship.

I shall merely mention to the House that we have taken pretty good care to develop our training ships. Whereas in 1947 we had only one ship 'Dufferin' for training for our Merchant Navy officers, we have now six, three for Merchant Navy officers and 3 for Ratings. The number of candidates who have taken advantage of this in 'Dufferin' is 1440 and in the Directorate of Merchant Engineering Training, the number is 240 and in the Nautical Engineering College, it has been up to 3,500 and in the Ratings Training ships the number is 7,500.

Well, Sir, our main difficulty, of course, is shortage of funds, and Rs. 37 crores already allotted to us for shipping has almost been spent, in the sense that it has been invested for the purchase of ships and for placing of orders either in the country or outside. But, our problem is that still we have a gap of two lakh tons yet to be bridged and, perhaps, Shri Raj Bahadur said that we would require at least Rs. 50 crores more in order to bridge this gap.

What troubles me most is that, if we do not take further steps to place orders for new ships, the situation may not be so favourable as it is today. At the present moment the price of ships is fairly low. It has gone down. The charter rates have gone down, and the shipyards in the foreign countries are prepared to take new orders and accept new orders. So, in fact, my desire is that we should take advantage of the situation and try to exceed the target which has been fixed by the Planning Commission, that instead of nine lakh tons I would very much like that it should reach the one million mark.

The real help has to come from my hon. colleague, the Finance Minister.

Shri Raghunath Singh: He is sure to give.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I have met him and discussed with him a number of times.

An Hon. Member: Pleased?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I have also pleaded, because for finance we have always to plead. I have suggested to him that, as shipping is a vital part of our economy even from the foreign exchange point of view, he should consider giving us more money.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Rs. 50 crores.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I have no doubt that its further development would be given the highest priority.

I have suggested another thing to him, that we should establish a Shipping Development Fund from which loans may be advanced to the shipping companies, both in the public as well as private sectors, and to which the reimbursements from them should be credited. It would thus be a non-lapsable fund. As I mentioned earlier, in order to attain the target of nine lakh tons prescribed by the Planning Commission another sum of Rs. 50 is required. What I have suggested is that it would help us if this fund is started with a small sum of Rs. 10 crores or Rs. 12 crores only. Then

the same amount may be advanced to this fund in each of the next four years.

We have also encouraged shipping companies to negotiate purchase of ships on deferred payment basis. There has been difficulty in finding even this small foreign exchange required for initial payment involved in these purchases. However, we are pursuing this matter, and the Finance Minister has told me to examine this when the present abnormal situation is somewhat eased.

The question of rate of interest has also been troubling the minds of shipping companies. At the present moment it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for the coastal ships and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for overseas ships. I do not know whether I should say so, but somehow I feel that the rate of interest for the coastal ships is really very heavy, and at the present moment coastal shipping is much behind the target. Unless some form of incentive and encouragement is given for coastal shipping, I do not think it would be possible for us to develop our coastal shipping which is particularly required from the transport point of view in the present context. What should be the rate of interest in future, whether it should be the same both for coastal as well as for overseas shipping, whether the rate of interest for overseas shipping should be enhanced, these are matters which are engaging my attention, and I hope it would be possible to take some early decision in consultation with the hon. Finance Minister.

The shipping companies have been strongly pleading for exemption being given to them from the new taxes proposed by the Finance Minister. I am told the Finance Minister is greatly impressed with the evidence given by Mr. Master in the Select Committee. I do not know what his decision would be but, anyhow, I feel that perhaps he will be favourably inclined to agree to this proposal, because it is surely in the interest of the development of shipping which is so vital for our country.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

As regards the shipping yard I need not say much. The house is aware that we are endeavouring to put up another shipyard. An Expert Committee from U.K. is coming which will visit the various places. They have already got a preliminary report with them, and they will ultimately decide regarding the location. Then the Government will have to consider about the resources etc. for setting up the second shipyard.

I may tell the House that up-to-date 13 orders have been placed with shipyards abroad and 15 with the Hindustan Shipyard, making a total of 28 vessels. Of these, 13 are for the public sector and 15 for the private sector. In addition, four second-hand vessels have been purchased, one for the public sector and three for private shipping companies. Thus, altogether 32 vessels have been ordered or purchased, and these aggregate to a tonnage of 1,81,000.

A significant development in the field of shipping has been the addition of two tankers, and of these one is owned by a shipping company—the Great Eastern Shipping Company—and the other by Government's Western Shipping Corporation. Both these tankers are employed for moving oil around the coasts. The acquisition of yet another tankers is part of our future development programme.

Simultaneously with the development of shipping we should, I think, look into one or two other important matters. The first is that of the efficient maintenance of our ships, so that we are able to get the best out of them. This takes me to the question of adequate ship repair facilities in the country. I am told that sometimes difficulties are experienced in getting repair work carried out within a reasonable time. I think the problem of ship repair facilities within the country requires looking into, and I propose shortly to appoint an Expert Committee to go into this question.

But, connected with this is the problem of ship stores. I have no doubt that we must endeavour to the best of our ability to make the country, as far as possible, self-sufficient in this regard. Here again, is a problem which requires thorough examination, and I propose to have this done in the course of the year.

I need not go into the point made by Shri Frank Anthony regarding our First Plan target, but I shall say a few words later, if there is time, about certain labour matters to which he referred. As regards the lighthouses, it would only be fair that I should inform the House, at least for the encouragement of the Lighthouse Department, of the nice and good work that they are doing. The programme of works proposed to be executed during the second Plan period envisages the construction and improvement of 100 lighthouses and 250 other aids to navigation. The programme of works for the current year includes the establishment of about 24 new lighthouses, three radar stations, three storm signals, six radio beacons and eight Decca navigator chains. It is also proposed during the current year to acquire two light buoys and four lighthouse tenders. A provision of Rs. 90 lakhs has been made in the budget estimate for 1957-58 for this purpose. So far, 18 lighthouses have been constructed during the second Five Year Plan. Every effort is being made to keep the tempo of work at the desired level so that the targets laid down in the second Plan are fully achieved.

About the ports, Shri Raj Bahadur has already said something, but I am prepared to admit that our situation in the ports at the present moment is very difficult indeed. There is a lot of congestion both in Bombay and Calcutta and especially in Calcutta. I need not go into the reasons. The hon. Members are aware that there have been so many reasons which have combined at the same time. It was a good thing that the Suez Canal was opened, but the sudden opening of

it has resulted in the jumping up of too many things. Many ships have come. Our imports which were held up for a long time, have all arrived at the same time, and then a special type of cargo, for example, steel, for which our ports are not fully geared up came in. Of course, an emergent decision was taken—it was not known earlier—and the foodgrains had also to be imported. So, all these have combined to create a special situation in the ports.

But I might inform the hon. Members that it has been possible for our major ports to handle over 14-lakh tons of iron and steel in 15 months against the programme of 15-lakh tons proposed. In the Bombay port we have been able to load and unload twice the quantity that could be handled during the peak period of the last war, even during the present situation when we have not been able to develop our ports as much as we wanted. What I mean to say is, we have not been able to provide more mechanisation, more berths, etc., and yet, in Bombay port we have been able to do double the work than what was done during the peak period of the war days. I do not want to view the present situation with equanimity. Actually, I have been dealing day-to-day with this problem, with the closest possible attention, and have taken a number of short-term measures with a view to easing the congestion as quickly as possible.

I need not take the time of the House in narrating what has been done, but here are some of the things: these are practical immediate steps which would be done:—limiting the number of days allowed for loading the outgoing ships that are available for export—the export ships; reduction of free days allowed to importers to clear the docks; increasing the demurrage charges payable to the port authorities for uncleared cargo; incentive schemes for improving the output; increasing use of lighters and gearing up of the ad-

ministrative and technical set up of the ports.

Recently, a special meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Overseas Shipping Conference was held where the representatives of the foreign shipping companies were also present. At that meeting, we told them as to what steps we have taken so far and as far as I know they were to a great extent satisfied with the efforts that are being made by the Government.

The position in Bombay port has considerably deteriorated in the month of July, but I may tell the House that the number of ships waiting there is gradually coming down. In order to save the time of the House, I shall not go into the figures, but the position in Bombay, Madras and Vizagapatam has definitely improved. The figure in Bombay had gone up to 47, while the number of ships waiting in open sea had come down to 26. Again, the Day before yesterday, six or seven ships more have arrived and therefore the figure in Bombay has again gone up. But I cannot say the same thing about Calcutta port, and I feel deeply concerned over it. My colleague Shri Raj Bahadur personally went there and has taken definite steps to improve matters there, but yet, I think it requires our constant attention. I should also like to visit Calcutta port soon and I think we can take definite steps to improve the position in Calcutta port especially in so far as the question of loading and unloading is concerned.

I may also inform the House what steps we have taken for the development of our ports. As the House is aware, the development of Kandla port as a major port and the construction of additional berths in other ports are proceeding. There is also increased use of mechanical appliances. I shall say in brief that in Kandla, four cargo berths are already in use and another two are under construction, making a total of six berths. In Madras, Cochin and Calcutta, altogether ten berths are under construction. Calcutta, we will have to

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]
consider separately, as I said before. Then our development programme includes the construction of another 17 berths in the major ports. As regards mechanical appliances, we have in addition to what has been purchased already.

Shri B. S. Murthy What about Vizag?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Vizag will develop much more than any other port in the second Five Year Plan, and Vizag is situated at a point in our country from where goods can be transported either to the north or to the south or to the eastern parts of the country,—Bengal, Bihar, etc., which could be easily covered by Vizag. So, Vizag is really very vital, and therefore, we have got a big plan for the development of the Vizag port.

As regards the mechanical appliances, we have placed orders of different varieties for 112 cranes, four lift trucks, trawler and other trucks for moving discharged cargo from ships, from side of the wagons, etc., and other trucks, 45; Two motors, 8; American trollies 36. For meeting certain urgent needs for additional appliances, we are thinking of sending abroad one or two technical officers for the spot purchase of readily available equipment.

As I said just now, there was the meeting of the Overseas Shipping Interests' consultative committee and as I said, we explained what we were doing and what our efforts would be in future. But I am pained to say that the foreign shipping companies are perhaps not able to realise our difficulties fully and they talk in terms of imposing further surcharge. I would not say anything much at the present moment, but I have no doubt that we will be able to tackle most of our problems in the ports, both with our short term measures as well as long term measures. Of course, the construction of berths cannot be completed in a year or in some months. It will take two years or three years. For example, if they have to con-

struct four or five berths, it will definitely take much time and we propose to do it in the case of Madras, Vizag and Cochin. So, the long-term measures will naturally take time. But the short-term measures which we propose to take and which we have started taking should satisfy the foreign shipping companies that genuine efforts are being made to improve the present position. The present congestion, as far as I can see, is a temporary thing. It has come up all of a sudden and given time, we will be able to tackle the situation and put the ports on a sounder basis.

I do realise that the real problem is the human problem. Just now Mr. Anthony was also referring to it. I know in our ports, thousands of workers of all grades are working and I know they are not fully satisfied with their emoluments and other service conditions. I am also prepared to admit that we have not been dealing with all these matters in a wholly satisfactory manner. But still, something substantial has been done to improve the lot of the workers. The introduction of the piece-rate system has benefited the workers a good deal. Sometime back I remember there was a strong opposition from the labour organisations to this move, but I know that they hold a different opinion now, because Mr. Anthony himself was referring to the fact that this system has not been introduced in Calcutta.

The piece-rate system has not only led to an increase in the output, but also to a considerable increase in the *per capita* income of the workers. In Bombay, for instance, the average earnings of a worker have very nearly been doubled. From Rs. 96 per month previously, now it is about Rs. 200 per month. I might inform Mr. Anthony that we are going to introduce this system in Calcutta as well as in Madras, Cochin and Vizag will follow suit. In fact, in Cochin, they have already got a kind of piece-rate system, which may have to be put on a permanent footing after necessary

modification. I might as well inform Mr. Anthony that the differential pay between permanent workers and casual workers—he has referred to that point—is also already under consideration of Mr. Choudhuri, the Officer on Special Duty.

Recently when the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust was here, I told him that he need not wait for Shri Jeejee Bhai to submit his report. He is one of the eminent ex-Judges and he is looking into the introduction of the piece-rate system in Calcutta. We will be requesting him to consider the Scheme for the Madras Port also. But I suggested to the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust that he should immediately draw up a scheme. Let there be a tentative scheme and let that scheme be altered and rectified later on, when Mr. Jeejee Bhai submits his report. In the meanwhile, he should find some way to give an incentive to the workers for doing better and more efficient work. Mr. Anthony will be glad to know that we have just now heard from the Calcutta Port authorities that they have decided to raise the wage of the casual worker to the level of the wage of the permanent worker. When this was announced, I am told by the Chairman this morning, the workers greeted it with acclamation.

Shri Anthony Pillai: What about Madras?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Madras also should do the same. I have also mentioned this to the Chairman of the Madras Port Trust. I have had a discussion with him and I hope he will take necessary action in that regard.

I think I shall have very little time to speak on the matters of the P. & T. Department. The House is probably not generally interested at the present moment in the expansion programme of the P. & T. Department, because they are all overwhelmed with the threat of the strike and I do not think they will be very much interested in other matters. I shall merely inform the House, as perhaps

Shri Raj Bahadur also mentioned, that either on the postal side or the telegraph side or the telephone side, the P. & T. department will continue to expand. But I am very particular that it is much better to consolidate all the branch post offices which are scattered throughout the country and to put them on a better footing, instead of expanding further and opening post offices and branch post offices, which are not able to work efficiently and do not give sufficient relief to the people of that area. So, I will not say there will not be any further expansion; I have not got the time; otherwise I would have given figures. Anyhow, the idea is to develop and expand and along with that we do want the large number of post offices in different parts of the country to be put on a more sound footing.

I think mobile post offices have been generally welcomed. Hon. Members might have seen it in Delhi. I want that these mobile post offices should be opened first in all the capital cities of the country and then in important industrial cities in various States.

I have also heard of complaints about the late delivery of express letters. It is a matter which deserves the attention of the P. & T. department. I am a new man to the department and I do not know much about it. But I have just suggested, why should not the postmen who carry the express letters be supplied with scooters, which have become very popular in Delhi. I think the P. & T. Directorate will consider that method in order to expedite the delivery of express letters.

Pandit Govind Malviya (Sultanpur): Apart from the strike which we all hope will not come about, is there any possibility of the P. & T. department improving the delivery of letters and telegrams, because today I can quote a dozen instances where telegrams have not been delivered at all?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I was just going to refer to that matter.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

This is a very common experience. Govind Malviya should know that he is not the only individual who has suffered on account of that. I have received hundreds of complaints. I remember one tragic case in which the telegram was sent to the father stating that the son was lying seriously ill. The father did not receive the telegram in time and he got it only three days after. He could reach the place only after the boy had terribly suffered. In fact, I feel so strongly and I have been telling the members of the Federation who have come and met me that the efficiency of the P. & T. department is deteriorating day by day. You can advance reasons for that.

Pandit Govind Malviya: I am talking of telegrams sent three months ago; they have never been delivered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is not a matter of satisfaction or joy to me. In fact, I feel that the responsibility is mine as a whole. If there is any mistake, I should say that I am responsible for it.

Pandit Govind Malviya: No, no.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I cannot shirk my responsibility. I was told, it may be all wrong, that they may withdraw the P. & T. strike but continue the go-slow movement. I think that is something which is worse than a strike. In a strike, you fight and decide. But, if this go-slow business is to continue, I do not know what is going to happen to the P. & T. department and to our countrymen. I know, if there is shortage of staff, if sufficient leave reserve is not available, it is for the P. & T. department to provide it. But, still, if these things are not there, if the workers will put their heart into their work, efficiency could be maintained, if not 100 per cent. at least, even with the shortage, 75 per cent. But, that spirit has to be there, which at the present moment is found lacking. I would very much appeal

to the leaders of the trade union movement, that they are certainly entitled to ask and demand for higher wages, more dearness allowance or other facilities or amenities—it is not a question of mercy that the Government will show, but they are entitled to them—but it is equally important that they should also co-operate. If our Second Plan is to succeed, I have no doubt in my mind that if we do not get the full-fledged co-operation of the workers, we will go down under co-operation in the sense of hard work and a sense of responsibility in performing their duty. That is very important. I hope that after the strike is over, the federation or the other organisations will sit down and consider what the obligations of the workers are. Let them pass a resolution. Let there be no strike for the next five years. The Pay Commission is there and all relevant things are referred to the Commission which is being constituted. Let there be a truce, peace, and let all departments work peacefully. Of course various other demands will crop up and difficulties would be there. For that, there is the way of negotiation, method of negotiation. As I said before in the conference, I am prepared to appoint a Standing Committee for negotiation at the top level, at the highest level so that they could follow up the discussions held between the Federation and the P. & T. authorities, see what has been achieved and what has not been achieved, where the delay is, and why there is slow progress, etc. All these things could be followed up by the Standing Committee.

Similarly I also had suggested that there should be a National Welfare Board at the top level. The National Welfare Board should go into all the problems. On the Board, there will be representatives of labour. They could go into these matters and also work up different Schemes or projects. All these things are there. But, unless our trade unionists realise that the workers have also some responsibility, noth-

ing fruitful is to come out of the whole trade union movement. There will always be constant conflict and clashes and it will help nobody.

I just mentioned about telephones. I shall merely say that there have been complaints. Mainly, the complaints have been due to shortage of cables, lines etc. It has practically reached the saturation point. On the top of that comes the copper wire theft in two or three states which especially are specialising in this.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Which are the States?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I wonder if I should name the States.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What is the wrong?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is not Shri T. B. Vittal Rao's State. It is West Bengal, No. 1; Bihar No. 2; and so that other Members may not feel angry, I may say, part of U. P. From Calcutta down to Banaras and Lucknow, considerable theft of copper wire is taking place. The gangs have become very clever, almost experts. Of course, one solution is providing underground cables, which we are doing. The work has already been taken in land.

Regarding theft of copper wire, I have had recently a discussion with the Home Ministry. It has been decided to appoint an officer of the D.I.G.'s rank from one of the States. That officer will work under the P. & T. Ministry, Co-ordinating his work with the State police. If there is an officer from that State, he may be able to get more success and probably may be able to achieve something. What is urgently required is that there should be a proper intelligence system developed in that area. It is not actually running after and catching the thief. It has to be found out who are harbouring these people, who are purchasing these copper wires. There must be, I think some people, not people with meagre incomes but people with good incomes, who are

dealing with these things. This matter has therefore to be tackled from the intelligence point of view.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Who are purchasing them?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Of course, the purchaser may also be the culprit. But, the thief and the man who takes it from the thief and then sells it to another person, I consider him to be the biggest culprit. Because he is encouraging these gangs to cut these wires and then making gains out of it because he gets enormous income by the sale. We should deal with them.

I have now only to refer to the training of the P. & T. staff. There is only one institution so far. Training has to be further improved and increased. There is only one training institution in the Saharanpur district. I have suggested that we should have another training institution in the south, if possible. I trust that the Madras Government would favourably consider our proposal and they may give us cheap land, etc., almost free, I hope. Then it will be possible for us to open another training institution there.

I shall finish in two minutes. I have taken a very long time. But, I have to deal with various matters. The P. & T. strike took much of my time. I wanted to say something about the national highways which also comes under my Ministry. About civil aviation, I need not say much because my friend Shri Humayun Kabir has almost covered every point raised in this House. I would also like, as he has done, to compliment the Air India International, which is indeed doing well in the face of severe competition of other international air lines. We naturally feel happy over that. What I would like to tell the House is, that I would not like them to take a very pessimistic view of the I.A.C. This does not mean that the Corporation has to take a complacent view, and not put in its best to increase its revenues and reduce losses.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

In fact, the question of the losses is causing us much anxiety, and the Chairman and other members of the Corporation are equally alive to it. I would like to assure the House that it will be their and our utmost endeavour to operate the services without much, or if I may say so, any loss. But I may tell the House that since I took over I have been seriously thinking over the steps which should be taken to improve the working of the Indian Airlines Corporation as also to increase its efficiency in different directions.

15 hrs.

On the administrative side there is the question of amalgamation of the two corporations. The Estimates Committee has also advised a careful examination of this question; in the alternative, the Estimates Committee has suggested common membership of the two boards. At present I can only inform the House that I am giving full thought to this matter, and as it involves some practical difficulties it has not been possible for us, for me and my colleagues, to come to a final decision. Even if the two corporations are not amalgamated, there is one thing which is quite clear and it is this, that the organisation requires a top-ranking technical officer to function as its general manager. The chairman is there, but we should have a top-ranking official who is a technical person, who knows about the aircraft, who may also be a pilot and knows the running of the administration also. We should have an officer of that level. I have had a talk with the Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation who entirely agreed with this idea. I know that there are not many technical persons available of that status, but still we may be able to secure the services of at least one two suitable persons to help us in this regard.

Some minor complaints were made regarding cleanliness of the aircraft and certain other matters. I shall not

go into them. Shri Humayun Kabir has dealt with all these points. One thing which is troubling me also is the enormous time taken in delivering the baggages when the aircraft arrives at the airport. Sometimes it takes 30 to 40 minutes. I cannot suggest any *via media*, but I have advised the corporation to consider whether it is possible for them to reduce its duration at least by half so that the baggages are delivered to the passengers as quickly as possible.

There are of course one or two other matters, but one thing which sometimes troubles me and my eyes is that when we sit in the plane, a lot of packages or cargo is kept just in front of you, and the whole appearance is so bad that one does not feel happy. It is my experience, I do not know whether other passengers also feel like me. I have suggested to the corporation that it should be possible for them to fix some kind of screen which would be more artistic, so that the cargo does not hit the eye of the passenger sitting there every time.

Regarding the supply of food, I have heard that there has been some improvement but this time—I have travelled before also—I think the breakfast and the food supplied was very good indeed, but much improvement has still to be made at the aerodromes. There is one difficulty. We have to supply breakfast etc. of different tastes. I have suggested to the Chairman—it is entirely for him to decide ultimately—that at least the breakfast should be standardised. Why should you supply somewhere puri and vegetable, and in other places idli or dosai, in a third place some other type and in Bengal, of course sweetmeat, rasagulla etc. It is better that the food supplied in the plane, at least the breakfast, should be standardised, and if the corporation agrees, they might take steps in that regard.

15.05 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

I have now almost finished. I have merely to say that we do want to take more interest in flying clubs, and I hope there will be better co-operation between the flying clubs and the Airlines Corporation and the officers of the aerodrome, so that young men can get full opportunity to get training in aviation and are able to get at least the A licence for this purpose, then they can later on take the B licence also

In the Civil Aviation Department, as I said before they have withdrawn the strike I am very glad to know that and I am very glad to announce it I hope they will also continue to do their work in the best spirit and put in their best so that civil aviation develops very well indeed in our country

Mr. Speaker. Now I will put all the cut motions to the vote

All the cut motions were put and negatived

Mr. Speaker The question is

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958 in respect of Demands Nos 82, 91 and 131"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Speaker The question is

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of the following heads of demands enter-

ed in the second column thereof. Demands Nos 83 to 90 and 127 to 130"

The motion was adopted

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed]

DEMAND No 82—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 72,09,000 including the sum already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Transport and Communications' "

DEMAND No 83—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 35,31,66,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including working Expenses)' "

DEMAND No 84—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 36,85,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage' "

DEMAND No 85—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 80,83,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in res-

[Mr. Speaker]

pect of 'Light-houses and Light-ships'."

DEMAND No 86—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 88,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958 in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No 87—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 67,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND No 88—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,07,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No 89—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,49,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

DEMAND No 90—COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING NATIONAL HIGHWAYS)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,34,06,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the

31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Communications (including National Highways)'."

DEMAND No. 91—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,57,94,000 including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Transport and Communications'."

DEMAND No 127—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 14,45,18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No 128—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,67,77,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PORTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,12,08,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Ports'".

DEMAND No. 130—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ROADS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,45,83,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads'".

DEMAND No. 131—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,52,92,000 including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications'".

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As the House is aware, 2 hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

Hon. Members may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes, the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move. I shall ask the Members to move them if the members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 64—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 65—BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,60,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 66—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,44,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,34,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

Does the hon. Minister desire to say anything in the beginning?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): May I know how much time is allotted?

Mr. Speaker: Two hours. How much time does the hon Minister want?

Dr. Keskar. About half an hour

Mr. Speaker: All right. Then it will be reserved in the end. Out of two hours I give ten minutes to each Member

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir) We want more time to be given to broadcasting

Shri Raghunath Singh: Yes, broadcasting is very important

Mr. Speaker. What can I do? Whatever the sub-committee passed and the committee accepted was placed before the House. The Business Advisory Committee's recommendation was accepted by the House

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Let us have the speech of the hon Minister tomorrow

Mr. Speaker: Then today we have half an hour more. Yes, the hon Member there

Shri Kumaran (Chirayinkil) I would like to speak on the cut motions standing in my name, and also refer to certain points raised by Shri Tangamam in the cut motions tabled by him

This Ministry is in charge of three important media of mass communication, namely the radio, the film and the press. Of these, the most important is the radio. The broadcasting system in India is directly and fully controlled by Government. Even though the spokesmen of Government claim that AIR is modelled on the BBC, we know that that is a claim which is very far from the truth. Whatever may be the defects and shortcomings of the BBC, it has certain good points, and it has certain valuable standards. The BBC is very zealous of maintaining its autonomy and independence. It has fought against governmental interference, and it has maintained its autonomy and independence through all these years. But here in India, AIR is completely controlled by Government. And what

is worse the party in power is using it as a medium for their private political propaganda.

It is a shameful fact that even in its newscasts, AIR is openly biased. During elections and other important occasions, the All India Radio is used by the party in power to further their own interests and also to propagate their own policies and programmes. It is in the field of culture that the bureaucrats controlling the AIR are doing the greatest havoc. I do not say anything about the content of the cultural programmes of AIR. But what I would like to point out is the pitiable position to which our writers and artists have been reduced by the bureaucrats who are entrenched in AIR. Any artist or writer who has anything to do with AIR will tell you the way in which his independence, his initiative and also freedom for creative work has been stifled with

It is no exaggeration to say that AIR has become almost a slaughterhouse, so far as the writers and artists are concerned. In the cultural programmes there is a set pattern from which no variation or departure can be made by the artists or the producers. It is stated in the report of the Ministry for the year 1956-57, that the scheme for programme production staff initiated last year, was placed on a systematic and sound footing. Under this scheme, some of our foremost writers and dramatists were appointed as programme production staff. I know from my own experience in Kerala that two of our best writers, one a great poet, and the other a great novelist and dramatist, were appointed to the programme production cadre, but they now admit that they have now become misfits in their capacity as producers. The fault is not theirs, because we know that they are eminent people, and they have contributed much to the progress of culture in our State; and they have left a permanent mark on the cultural life of our people. But they have now become defeatists, they have become frustrated, and they openly say that

they have become useless officers or whatever else you may call them.

Surely, the reason for this frustration on the part of the producers, artists and writers is the interference, the bureaucratic interference from the Centre and also from the Director who is in charge of the radio station there. I know that in almost all the States, persons who have nothing to do with the culture, language or literature of the people of the State in which they are appointed have been appointed as Directors of the radio stations. They will always be in conflict with the people who are really doing the job there.

If my information is correct, a gentleman who belongs to Punjab—I do not know whether he is from East Punjab or West Punjab—has been appointed as the Director of the radio station at Trivandrum. I know that certain Malayalees have been appointed as Directors at other stations. I do not grudge that. I do not complain that people from other States have been appointed as Directors of radio stations in some of the States. My only point is that even the people who are appointed from Punjab or from any other remote State must know the language of the people residing in the area where the radio station is located. That is my only point. I am not against people belonging to remote States being appointed at radio stations in other States.

Another point that I would like to make is that once an artist or a writer is appointed to the programme staff or any other post in AIR, he is considered to be a loss to the people, and a loss also to the culture. The people would say that he has sold himself away for just a handful of silver. Why should that be so? After all, All India Radio is considered to be an institution which disseminates culture and which works for raising the cultural level of the people. But we find that the artists and writers who are

appointed in All India Radio feel that they are not wanted there. They are not expected to do any independent work there, and their creative power is not utilised there. This state of affairs must be put an end to. If the objective of Government is that All India Radio should become an institution which would further the cultural life of our people and improve the cultural level of our people, then certainly, the artists, writers, musicians and other people who work there must be given at least some degree of freedom.

The next point which I would like to mention is the concentration of power in Delhi. I do not refer to the concentration of political power, but to the concentration of cultural power that is in Delhi. The regional stations of All India Radio have no freedom even in regard to small details of broadcasting. Everything has to come from Delhi.

I know that there are certain advisory committees. But they are mere eye-wash. We know the role that they are expected to play, but the advisory committees are not even functioning or meeting very often, and the suggestions made by them are not accepted by the radio authorities.

Some people controlling the destiny of our nation and also controlling this Ministry are under the impression that India is Delhi or merely some northern part of the country. But the real India is the India from the Himalays to the Cape Comorin; it is only all the State joined together that make our great country. Similarly, in the matter of culture also, we have so many cultures in our country. Of course, there is a national culture, but that is a culture which is based on regional cultures and expressed through the regional languages. This very important fact is always ignored by the authorities in Delhi, I mean, the authorities controlling the All India Radio.

Most of the regional languages are very ancient and they have a very good literary and cultural heritage. One of the purposes of the AIR, we

[Shri Kumaran]

are told, is to approach the people, to carry the Five Year Plan to their homes and tell them what is our plan and how we can implement and make it a success. If that is the intention of the Ministry, it must certainly give more importance to the regional languages than to English or Hindi, even though Hindi is the national and official language. We are not against propagating Hindi and giving importance to it, but if you want to approach the people to carry the Plan to the people, you must approach them through their language. That is the only way to approach them.

The question of setting up separate National Councils for broadcasting was taken up some years ago by the British Government. The Burridge Committee there had recommended in 1951 that National Councils for broadcasting should be set up for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Government issued a White Paper in which it was laid down that national regions be established in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It increased freedom and responsibility. In pursuance of that, these National Councils for Scotland and Wales were established to control the policy and content of regional broadcasts. This is the model that we should adopt as far as our separate regions are concerned. I hope the Ministry will take this up as an urgent matter and will give more autonomy and independence and initiative to the regional broadcasting stations.

We have had two Committees of Inquiry, one for films and another for the Press. But so far we have had no inquiry into question of broadcasting. This is a very important matter. The BBC is having periodical Royal Commissions of inquiry—every five or ten years. We must expand to develop the broadcasting system here. The technique of broadcasting is fast changing. We want technical improvement, and so for that purpose, we must have some guiding policy and data. Hence

the Ministry must take steps to set up an Inquiry Commission without any delay as an urgent matter.

The Ministry itself admits that one of its duties is to give internal publicity to the Government. Of course, every Government has some organ of publicity. Nobody will object to that, but the misconception as to the purpose or method of publicity in the minds of certain people here, especially in the various divisions of the Ministry, becomes really a hindrance to real publicity work in India. In this connection, I may read a passage from the Report of the Press Commission:

"A scrutiny of collections of photographs, press releases and government periodicals shows a tendency to ignore the fundamental achievements or objectives and to spotlight the dignitaries to emphasise the persons and not what they have done. The information directorate and the government publications should eschew such a stultifying tendency".

I hope the Minister will certainly try his best to remove this tendency.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has already taken 18 minutes. There are only two hours. The hon. Member's Group was also represented on the Committee which decided allotment of time.

Shri Kumaran: I am the only spokesman from this Group.

Mr. Speaker: I am unable to do anything more even then. He can have a minute more.

Shri Kumaran: Certain books and pamphlets are published by the Publications Division. They are well got up and well printed. They are very good to see; and to handle them is comfortable. But the matter which is given there is very badly presented and people will do anything but read it. All the power at the hands of the Ministry or the Gov-

ernment cannot make the people read it. The material is so shabbily produced and presented. Even in the case of some good books and pamphlets, the distribution is so bad that it will be hoarded somewhere in some dark corridors of the Ministry. This Ministry is said to be the greatest hoarder of books and pamphlets in this country. This defect must also be rectified and our Five Year Plan publicity must be made more effective and popular.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): Before I make some points, I would like to reply to one point made by the previous speaker. His complaint was that AIR was employing the best writers and poets and thereby these writers and poets were lost to the country. It is a very strange complaint, and I have heard it many times before. If these writers and poets are starving, their complaint against Government is that merit is not recognised. If they are given good posts, then the complaint is that they are lost to the country. A few years ago I myself was feeling that we had got so many good writers, so why did pigmies occupy important positions in different AIR centres. But I find that in the last few years there has been a very marked improvement, and here I agree with the previous speaker that the best writers and poets have been appointed not only in Kerala but all over the country. With some of them I had an opportunity to discuss the matter. I found out that their independence, their freedom of writing and their freedom of criticism had not been hampered in any way. Of course, they got a better life of ease. I think some of my friends are enamoured with the idea of the French writers that real writers or poets or artists will be able to give of their best only when they are starving or rebelling against the country. What is happening today? These writers of ours may not be giving those pieces of agitation at literature. But so far as creative literature is concerned, I do not think there is any ground for complaint.

Now AIR has made such vast and rapid progress that it is very difficult to summarise it in a few minutes. Probably this is the only broadcasting system which has to cater to such a vast population speaking so many languages. In all the languages scheduled in the Constitution and also in English, these broadcast take place.

Besides, broadcasting takes place in 20 tribal languages. Not only that; various types of dialects, and I think as many as 48 dialects, are also touched.

The rapid progress made by the AIR can be indicated only by two figures, that AIR broadcasted 19,000 hours of programme on the Home Service and 6,500 hours in the External Service in one year.

Besides Indian languages we have touched the other languages. Therefore, in such a short time the progress made by the AIR is very commendable. The *Sahitya Samaroh* and National Programme and Operas have taken place and are very commendable.

Some novel features have been introduced in recent years. Operas based on classical or folk tunes have been broadcast and they are a very welcome new feature. The *Vrind Sangeet* or group music, both choral and orchestral has been included in the regular schedule. Then the experiment made in *Swaddha Sangeet* and the National Programmes have given a great impetus to the culture of our country.

So far as rural broadcasting is concerned, very satisfactory progress has been made. Twenty-nine thousand community sets have been supplied to the different States. In my own experience, wherever I had chances to go to the rural areas, whether in my own constituency or certain other areas in the tribal places which I have visited in my capacity as the President of the Andhra Pradesh Adim Jati Sewak Sangh, the community sets supplied to them have done very good publicity.

[Shri Heda]

My friend had complained that the Five Year Plan publicity is not made properly. Many times I feel that if we the Members of Parliament attend a few programmes in these rural programmes, we are sure to be benefited. They are so good.

One feature which had appealed to every section—and I think all opposition parties would agree with me—was that in the last general elections the coverage that the All India Radio gave us very fair and quick. I do not think that any party had any ground for making any complaint.

Lastly the Drama Division and particularly the Drama festival have started very well. I also attended a few dramas and I was reminded of the open air theatres of Rome. They have achieved in Rome a very good name and about 60,000 people could attend these dramas at a time. I think we have also started very well. There is a great scope for advance to be made and I hope it will be done.

So far as publication is concerned, there are two magazines, particularly the *Ajkal* and the *Bal Bharati*. They appeal to me most. The *Ajkal* appeals because of its get-up, the photos; the material is up to date and pleasing to the eye. One great feature of *Ajkal* is that it has short stories and poems and articles from different languages of India are translated in it. Thus we can get glimpses of the literature of the whole country.

This was a thing started by late Munshi Prem Chand under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi in his magazine *Hans*. Even after the death of Munshi Prem Chand, it continued for some time and I am very glad that such a novel feature has been consistently done in this *Ajkal*. *Ajkal* is coming only in two languages and could be had in more languages, even in Marathi or Telugu or other languages. If we get translations by other

language writers and poets, then it would be very interesting.

My last point is about a controversial matter. It is about commercial broadcasting. We know that the Ceylon Radio is minting money by broadcasting a volume of music and giving advertisements. A lot of opinion is found in our country that we should also start commercial service and thereby earn this money. One feature is that we are losing very large foreign exchange. So much money from India is flowing into Ceylon in payment of the advertisements I know that the Department and the Minister hold very strong views so far this commercial broadcasting is concerned. I have nothing to refute those views. But I would urge upon the Minister to take into consideration the magnitude of the amount that is going out. I think it is much more than the total cost of the operation of the entire Ceylon Radio. Therefore, he should devise ways and means so that these advertisers may not be able to get the exchange money and may not be able to send money out of India. I think there are enough ways and means; and if he takes it to heart and seeks the co-operation of the Finance Ministry, it will not be difficult.

So far as advertising is concerned, we are following the British broadcasting system and I think it is a good augury, in the sense that not only freedom or independence or balance is maintained in the All India Radio but we do not allow it to become cheap. But, there are certain weaknesses of the human mind. Human mind is very receptive, particularly the minds of young men and women. Therefore, the Radio is a powerful medium. It is just possible that an era of television may be ushered in India though I see no sign of it in the next Five Year Plan.

In the United States, there is the other extreme. There you will find every boy and girl listening to some television programme or other. They

are getting some advertisement broadcast or other. The result is that very precious time is lost. Even those people who listen to the Ceylon Radio have expressed their intelligent opinion. They told me that instead of listening to all those news they record the film music and then turned off the news. From that it is very clear that what the people here need is more of film music. They do not need so-called advertisements. If the quantum of film music which is large enough looking at the taste of our population is increased it would do good. If we are really democratic, if we really want to cater to the desires or the urges of the people, still more of film music should be allowed. I would suggest that one or two stations may be specialised to give film music all the hours that are reserved for broadcasting.

If we take these measures, it is more than possible that the menace that we have to face from the Ceylon Radio will be diminished. At the same time, it is just possible that we may be able to persuade the Indian advertisers also. An interesting feature of this Ceylon Radio is that it does not broadcast these advertisements to its own population. It is closed for the Ceylonese population. They have managed it in such a way that it is heard only in India and it shows that the Ceylon Government or the Ceylon Broadcasting Department are not in agreement or rather they would not like the ears of their own residents to be poisoned by these advertisements. But, they are in need of money; or, the lure of money is so great. Because of the last war they have got a very powerful broadcasting set. Therefore, they are taking advantage. I would urge upon the Government to go into the question thoroughly and see that as many ways and means as are possible are adopted to decrease the volume of Ceylon Radio and thus save our young men and women from hearing these undesirable and big number of advertisements.

Another point is about the advisory committees. My previous speaker also referred to it. Some of the advisory committees are working very well, some of them are not working so well. I think the defect does not lie with the nature of the committees itself. Many times the choice of people is good. Those members take interest and express their individual opinion. My only point is, if any member holds strong views on any particular aspect there must be some way by which those views can go direct to the Minister or the Director General, without need for that member to go to the Press. It may be dealt with in the routine procedural way, so that his or her views may have the impact that they deserve. Many times we see that it is not the majority or minority view that matters. Novel or good ideas are first heard from one person, slowly they spread and after some time they become the majority view. Therefore, whether the view is held by one person or more than one person in the Advisory Committee should not count. If there is any strong opposition or a sort of protest by any member of any advisory committee to the general view held by the advisory committees and carried on by those centres, I suggest that such views should be directed to the Minister and Director-General as a matter of course.

With these suggestions, Sir, I again express my appreciation of the great work that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has done. So far as publicity is concerned, in the First Five Year Plan they have done very well and I am sure in the Second Five Year Plan they will do still better.

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a feature which impresses one, rather unfavourably, about the functioning of the information department is its tendency towards over-centralisation. Whereas the modern trend is towards decentralisation, towards building up extension services, towards developing and activating, let us say, State and local

[Shri Bimal Ghose]

agencies, it appears that the information department is seeking to build up an empire in Delhi and direct activities from here. The result often is that in a vast country like India the contact at the periphery is weak and the results also are not so effective. If you take any other department of the Government, let us say, the agriculture, education or health department, the Central Government functions primarily through the State and builds up State agencies which they succour and guide. In the case of the information department it functions more or less only from Delhi.

The result is, naturally, what one would expect, not very good. In the first place there is lack of co-ordination, and although the hon. Minister may say that he holds conferences of State Ministers from time to time and these conferences pass resolutions, I do not know how often those resolutions are given effect to. The State Governments have their own information departments and they function their own way. In the case of conflict between the State and Central Governments, I mean to say if the person who is in charge of the State Information department thinks that the Central Government is doing something which he does not approve of, he can sabotage that and he can have what he wants.

Dr. Keskar: Is the hon. Member speaking of other departments of the Ministry? Is he talking of the Radio and other departments?

Shri Bimal Ghose: Of all the departments I feel that the information department functions primarily from Delhi, and it is not like other Government departments.

Dr. Keskar: May I point out that as far as other departments are concerned, the Central Information and Broadcasting Ministry has no status in the States? There is an Information Ministry in the States and we cannot go over its head.

Shri Bimal Ghose: I quite realise that. But one might say that the Central Agriculture Ministry has no status in the States. What does the Central Agriculture Ministry or the Health Ministry do? They assist the State efforts. They see that in the States things are done in a better way. So, what I want the Central Information and Broadcasting Ministry to do is to function as a sort of extension service, pooling information, knowledge and experience, and then assisting the State information agencies also to develop on proper lines.

The State Governments have not the money to develop their information service. I am sure it is the desire of the hon. Minister that publicity, let us say, about the Five Year Plan should be carried out to the remotest corner of our country. If that is to be done, that can be done only through the State Governments, if they have adequate information and publicity service. But they have no money.

I wish the Central Government here would do something on the basis of matching grants, it would encourage the States to do the same thing as is being done in other Ministries and say: "You do this, we will give you 50 per cent. or 25 per cent. of the money." That will encourage the States to do things which probably they now do not have the finance to do.

Another bad effect of centralisation may be referred to and that is in the department of advertising and visual publicity. All advertising has been centralised. The result is that if in the remotest corner of a State a Central Government department wants to do something, let us say that the food department wants to sell off something and wants to call a tender, then it has to refer it to the regional officer who has to refer it back to his own department in Delhi and that

department will refer to the information department. Then it will be referred to the Directorate and the advertisement calling for a tender will go out from there. I do not intend to say that there may not be reasons for centralising matters. In certain things, in matters of policy there may be necessity for centralising, but in such small matters I do not think that it does any good to centralise them. The regional officers should be given power so that small things need not be referred to the Centre, because that sometimes means waste and also inefficiency.

Another thing is in regard to visual publicity. I am aware that there are artists from various provinces drawn who are doing a very good job of work. It is not that they are not doing a good work, but what happens is, when you centralise publicity, supposing you want to publicise that people should be inoculated against cholera and you make a drawing, if that painter happens to be a Bengali he will draw the picture of somebody with Bengali features and dress, if he happens to be a man from South India he will do the same thing, but when that publicity material is reproduced in Assam the people do not feel that it is an advertisement which has any great appeal to them. So, in this matter also I think there is necessity for decentralisation.

I would have gone on about this matter, but I have not got the time and there are certain other matters to which I would like to refer.

I now come to the Press Information Bureau and the work it does. It is a legacy of an office which was created in the British times, the Bureau of Public Information. Its main purpose was to furnish information to the press who were at that time not very friendly to the Government. But times have changed since then. The Bureau has been converted into a Press Information Bureau and it has been expanded, but yet the same sort of work is being done. Now, information is being doled out every day in hund-

reds, but why should that be done? What is the responsibility of the press correspondents? Should not they find out things for themselves? It should not be the purpose of the Press Information Bureau to dole out news with sometimes very unfortunate results, because, if the paper is not enterprising or its correspondent is not enterprising the same typing mistakes which appeared in the Press Information Bureau handout will also appear in the newspaper concerned. I do not say that the Press Information Bureau should not be there. It should have some other function. It should have the function of an interpretative kind, explaining say, the background of news. What is the background? Why our Government are doing certain things should be explained rather than giving hand-outs which I feel kill the initiative of the press correspondents.

The third point I want to raise is about the absolute division and separation of the external services from the internal services. Of course, that is a matter over which the hon. Minister has not full control. I realise that, but it has some bad effects. One bad effect is that when we have external publicity in the hands of a separate department and when the people working in external publicity work all the time outside the country, they sometimes lack the basis of the information which they should purvey. They lose touch with the country, because they are transferred from one foreign country to another, and they do not come back to this country, so that they do not imbibe the atmosphere in the country and thereby they lose touch. Otherwise, they would be better able to explain things about this country in countries abroad.

On the internal side also, there is a bad effect, if you send people abroad, they could get new ideas and they could utilise and apply their ideas to the services within the country. But this is not done. I know the hon. Minister himself cannot do anything about it, but I think I should bring

[Shri Bimal Ghose]

it to the notice of the Government, I think the Government should do something about it. It may be said that in Great Britain also they have two services—external and internal. But the answer to that is, two-fold. First, just because Great Britain does it, why should we also copy that system? Secondly, although they have two services, there is the system of interchangeability of personnel as between the two services in Great Britain.

The fourth point is this. I may refer, in passing, to the excessive concentration of ownership in newspapers which point was also brought about in the Press Registrar's report. The Press Commission also had referred to it and made certain suggestions. Since then, it appears that the position has become worse. I should like to know what Government have been doing in this matter, and what action they intend to take to bring about a better state of affairs in the newspaper world, so that they may serve us better.

Next, I want to say a few words about radio broadcasts. I will endorse the suggestion made by my friend here that there should be an enquiry as to how the radio has been functioning. In other countries there have been certain enquiries. We should also try to find out as to whether our radio has subserved its purpose and whether there are any improvements to be made, because in other fields of publicity work, there have been committees and commissions. In other countries there have been such enquiries. There is no reason why we should not do something about it.

I would also like to endorse, in this connection, the suggestion made by Shri Heda about formulating a programme, particularly with regard to music which people like. The hon. Minister has been trying to popularise classical music. I approve of that attempt and I am all with him that classical music in our country

should be popularised and people should know something about their past heritage. But, at the same time, we cannot go against the wishes of the people too far. It would be interesting to find out the extent to which Radio Ceylon has been capturing the listening public in this country and also to enquire into the reasons why it is so. One reason certainly is that they are purveying film and light music. What I want to say is that the hon. Minister, while trying to popularise classical music, should give more time to light music and to film music. I do not know what is the proportion of time allotted to classical music and to other kinds of music now. But I have a feeling that the proportion of time allotted to classical music is much more than that allotted for popular music.

Finally, I want to refer to political broadcasts mentioned at page 18 of the Administration Report. What it says is:

"Controversial party broadcasts have again been avoided, and though an offer was made by the Government to major political parties to broadcast summaries of their manifesto prepared by them, it was later withdrawn since the response from three of the major parties was not encouraging."

"Controversial party broadcasts have been avoided". That is euphemistic language for saying that broadcasts of only one political party are allowed, because Government information or Government publicity is all the time being broadcast from the radio. It only means that other political parties do not get any chance on the radio. I ask the hon. Minister whether that is a desirable thing in a parliamentary system of Government and whether it is not desirable that the people should know what the opposition parties are doing or saying. Even in the report of parliamentary

proceedings, there is a bias in favour of what the Government's point of view is. I do not say that the opposition is completely blacked out, but the fact of the matter is that the Ministers and the Congress as a whole do get more of the time in the radio broadcasts.

An Hon. Member: Most of the time.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Yes, but that is not good. I say that in the interests of the Government, if they are anxious to develop a parliamentary system of Government in this country

An Hon. Member: They are not anxious

Shri Bimal Ghose: If they are not anxious, then they should join hands with the Communist Party and form the Government. But, if they are anxious, it is extremely desirable that they should at least give proportionate time if not equal time to the opposition parties, and the opposition point of view should be ventilated so that the public may become more enlightened and the enlightened public be enabled to judge what Government's action is and decide for themselves as to what future policy should be

Kumari M. Vedakumari (Eluru): I thank the Chair very much for having given this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We know broadcasting is an important measure in the development of country. It is the most manifested sign of civic progress. It educates the electorate and even the farmers and the workers and the strain of the workers and farmers melts when they switch on to the radio. The radio educates the people, entertains the people and publicity is gained so much by the broadcasting system. Thus the radio is a powerful measure through which we can make the people educated, cultural and more literate.

The Demand which we were discussing today is different from the other Demands. Here, we are tackling

the problem of artistes: not only the problem of artistes but also the problem of aesthetics. When we speak of the standard of the artistes in the programme, we speak also of the aesthetic sense of the country also. This is why, when we tackle the problem of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, we also tackle the problem of the aesthetic sense of India.

16 hrs.

The first Radio Club was started in India in 1924 at Madras. Since that time broadcasting has developed by leaps and bounds except in one aspect. One of the most important measures in the development of the broadcasting system still remains where it was, and some of the problems which were never tackled in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, namely the plight of the artistes, for instance remain on the same basis as they were since the last ten years. But we see now that the existing stations are over-working. It should be due to the lack of personnel or due to lack of facilities, I think. But one of the important things we have to consider is the composition and the design of the programme of the broadcasting station. The composition and design of the programme is completely vested in the programme assistant. He has to contact the artistes; he has to bring the top most artistes in the country and arrange for the best, most excellent programmes. This programme assistant is a young versatile man, who will be in charge of not only one department, but so many other departments also. In small stations, he will be in charge of several departments and he must know not only his job, but the other assistants' job also, because it has been the policy of the AIR to transfer them from one department to another, in order to make him well acquainted with all the aspects of the broadcasting system.

But we have to consider that sometimes these programme assistants have to work from sunrise to

[Kumari M. Vedakumari]

moonrise. For instance, in the morning if the transmission assistant goes on leave, he has to announce the programmes as an announcer, participate in the programmes as an artiste, and after doing all this work, he has to do the routine office job from 10 to 5. From this weary man, how can you expect any good quality programme, when he is simply forced to work just like a machine? He will be coming into contact with so many big people, the highest including in the land also. He has to maintain, therefore, a certain standard. He must be a jack of all trades and he must be able to tackle any aspect of the programme within a moment's notice. If at all AIR has achieved any success, it is only because of this young band of enthusiastic persons, who work for art not for the remuneration they get from it.

Coming to the problems of the staff artistes, to make a programme successful, we must appoint efficient staff artistes. But at present these staff artistes are the least paid and the least cared for. They are the group of persons responsible for soul-stirring, excellent, programmes, but they are the people who are the least paid and least cared for. They are appointed permanently on a temporary basis and they do not have any security of service whatsoever. They will be at the mercy of the station director's whims and fancies. He can neck them out any time; they do not know when they will be necked out or taken back again. They are the people who have suffered a lot in the broadcasting system. They are the people who are responsible for the success of the programmes.

About amenities, these staff artistes are not even blessed with a room to take rest in the day time. They have to wander under the burning sun now and then sitting under chequered shades of trees in compound and they have to work from morning to evening. There are vans, but these staff artistes are not even

allowed to enter these vans, even after the national programmes late in the night. They are treated like this by the authorities. Before a programme goes on air, these artistes have to rehearse it for hundreds of times, because there should be no mistakes in the programme. The artiste is the man who really builds a wonderful world in the weary world, elevates the soul from its darkness, and gives something to humanity and he is the man who is ill-treated by the authorities. I cannot express in words how he is ill-treated.

For instance, in Vijayawada, there are three rooms only. One room is completely kept for talks. There is only one room in which nearly 40 or 50 artistes have to sit and rehearse their programmes. They sit there for several hours and they get suffocated; they perspire, get choked. But nobody takes any interest in them, because after all, they are all poor artistes. The air-conditioning plant will never work in its usual way. I do not know whether it has inherited the blood of the authorities, but whenever they are deadly in need of the plant, it will go out of order. When the winter commences, it also commences to work. The poor staff artistes are simply made to die there sitting in that room for several hours. I do not know whether this programme of the air-conditioning plant in Vijayawada has been sponsored by the authorities or by the people, but nobody takes any interest in the poor artistes to improve their standard of living or do anything for them. More rooms should be given to them; they should be allowed to use the station vans at least in the nights after national programmes. If you do not give them the minimum amenities, how can you expect the staff artistes to give excellent, soul-stirring, programmes of the best quality? I cannot express in words; they want extraordinary talent from the staff artistes. How can they produce qualitative, lively programmes. They suffer from the deli-

rium of the heart and soul. Really, the artistes who like to govern the whole universe and whisper with the Gods, become victims of tears and spend their lives in melancholy hours living in simple holdings and dirty streets.

This is the plight of the staff artistes. The beat of the soul is being beaten down and extinguished by the demon of poverty and they have to live from hand to mouth. Really they are depressed by the sad state of their poverty. The thoughts which kindle his soul, lost its beat. His fancy shed its silt. So, I would expect the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the plight of the staff artistes and give at least the minimum necessities. At least we must try to make them not to be worried by all these worldly things. We must make the artistes free from worries. As an American psychologist said, "Worry is the spasm of emotion; the mind catches hold of something and will not let it go." That is the effect of the worry on an artist. So, I think the hon. Minister should pay special attention at least to the minimum amenities, give them a certain standard of living and expect them to give qualitative, excellent, lively and entertaining programmes.

We are receiving some complaints about boredom of the programmes. I think this is also due to the plight of the staff artistes. Churchill said, there are three kinds of deaths in humanity—those who are toiled to death, those who are worried to death and those who are bored to death. I request the hon. Minister not to make humanity the victim of the third type of death, by giving our programmes with the depressed help of the artistes. I would like the hon. Minister to pay special attention and give them the minimum amenities. They are not even blessed with the provident fund scheme. Though this question has been raised on the floor of this House persistently, I do not know when they are going to pay attention to the problems of the staff artistes. Every one speaks about the

programmes, allocation of funds, etc. But, they never take care of the staff artistes. They have to pay special attention to the staff artistes. They are the principal people, they are the honey of the programmes. They are the patriots; they are the men who make a wonder of the world, who lift the soul from its weariness. Everybody must recognise the importance of the staff artistes and pay special attention to them. Every one in the country should join and make the hon. Minister come down and give amenities to the staff artistes and do justice.

Some Hon. Members: Come down.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: From the high level.

Coming to the allocation of sums to the various States, I wish to bring forward the following figures. They have allotted as follows:

Andhra	..	Rs. 10,28,000.
Madras	..	Rs. 26,87,000.
Mysore	..	Rs. 11,05,000.
Punjab	..	Rs. 26,05,000.
U.P.	..	Rs. 13,35,000.

I do not know what has influenced the hon. Minister to allot such a small sum to one of the big State in India. On what basis has he arrived at this sum? On the basis of cultural development? On the basis of population? On what basis have they allotted such a minimum sum to the cultural State which has produced Tyagayya and Kshetragna? Does Andhra lag behind in cultural development? I do not know what is the information of the hon. Minister. But, I know what Andhra is. Andhra has produced great poets, writers and artists. I think and hope the hon. Minister will be impartial at least to the cultural development of the several States in India.

They broadcast some programmes in External services. They are broadcasting programmes in Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati and Hindi. Telugu is

[Kumari M. Vedakumari]

completely eliminated. It is one of the richest languages of the world. It is the Italian of the East. Why it is completely eliminated and forgotten by the Minister, I do not know. There was a lot of agitation from abroad and they have appealed to the good sense of the hon. Minister. I think the appeal would go to the mind of the hon. Minister and he will do some justice to the Andhras and their culture. Again, I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the Andhra culture and its development and be impartial to the cultural development of the various centres in India.

Mr. Speaker: Two hours were allotted for this. I have received a number of chits from various Members. If the House is willing to sit till 6 o'clock, I have no objection.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister wanted half an hour. I shall call him at 5-30. Broadcasting is a wide subject and covers the whole world and reaches all the corners of the world. Ten minutes for each Member.

सरदार अ० सि० सहगल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आकाशवाणी का जो जरिया है आज वह दुनिया में संचार तथा प्रचार का कार्य करता है। हमारे यहां आकाशवाणी के द्वारा १४ भाषाओं में प्रसार कार्य होता है जिन में हिन्दी, अंगरेजी और १२ अन्य रोजनल लैंग्वेजेज शामिल हैं। इस के अतिरिक्त इन केन्द्रों से जो हमारी २० ट्राइबल लैंग्वेजेज हैं, जिन को हमारे पहाड़ी लोग और देहातों के दूसरे रहने वाले पढ़ते और बोलते हैं खास कर रांची के और गुजरात के, उन में भी बहुत सी चीजें प्रसारित की जाती हैं। हमारे यहां ४८ जिले हैं उन को जो डायलेक्ट्स हैं उन में भी प्रसार कार्य होता है। हमारे यहां जो एक्स्टर्नल

सर्विसेज हैं, उनसे अलावा कुल मिला कर साल भर में २० हजार घंटों के प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किए जाते हैं।

अभी हमारे एक मित्र ने कहा कि नहीं कह सकते कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक आकाशवाणी से कितने घंटे प्रसारित किया जाता है। थोड़ा देर में मैं उनके सामने रखूंगा कि कुल कितने घंटे क्लासिकल म्यूजिक के लिए दिए जाते हैं। जहां तक हमारी भाषाओं का सम्बन्ध है, मैं कहने के लिए तैयार हूं कि उनमें स्पेशल प्रोग्राम्स रखे गए हैं। नेशनल यूनिटी और आपसी प्रेम और सद्भाव बढ़ाने के लिए हमारे यहां रोजनल लैंग्वेजेज में कविताओं के जरिए से, साहित्यिक कार्यक्रमों के जरिए से और समाचारों के जरिए से काफी प्रसार का कार्य किया जाता है। यह बहुत बड़ी चीज है।

मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि मुझे संगीत का थोड़ा बहुत ज्ञान है। मैंने उस संगीत के विषय में भी आकाशवाणी जा कर थोड़ी बहुत जानकारी प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की।

16.17 hrs

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair**]

शनिश्चर को वहां पर जो स्पेशल प्रोग्राम हुआ करता है, उसको देखने और सुनने की मैं हमेशा कोशिश करता हूं। कर्नाटक म्यूजिक..

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): May I point out, Sir, that there is no quorum in the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum. The hon. Member Sardar A. S. Saigal may continue.

सरदार अ० सि० सहगल : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अभी संगीत के बारे में अपने विचार रख रहा था। अगर देखा जाए तो हमें कहना पड़ेगा कि आकाशवाणी का ५० प्रतिशत प्रोग्राम संगीत का होता है।

इसके अतिरिक्त कितने बें साल भर में आकाशवाणी संगीत आदि को देता है, इस का भी कुछ लेखा मेरे पास है। एक साल में करीब ४२ हजार घंटे वह संगीत को देता है। हमारे मित्र ने कहा था कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक को कितना समय दिया जाता है, उनको इस का पता नहीं है। मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि कुल २४७६५ घंटे एक साल में क्लासिकल म्यूजिक को दिए गए। हिसाब लगाया जाय तो हर स्टेशन से १ घंटे के लगभग शस्त्रीय संगीत प्रसारित किया जाता है। जो लाइट म्यूजिक है और जो फिल्म म्यूजिक है वह भी करीब ११३०५ घंटे साल भर में प्रसारित किया जाता है इसके अतिरिक्त जो आर्कस्ट्रा और दूसरा म्यूजिक है वह भी ६६८ घंटे प्रसारित किया जाता है।

आकाशवाणी से देहात के लोगों के लिए करस बाडकास्ट्स दुआ करते हैं। उनके लिए हम नें देहातो को कम्युनिटी सेट्स बाट दिए हैं जिन की संख्या २६ हजार के लगभग है। मैं अपने मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो ६५ हजार कम्युनिटी सेट्स देने का कोटा है उसको पूरा करने की व्यवस्था करे। इस सम्बन्ध में उन्हें यह भी देखना चाहिए कि हर साल इस चीज में कितनी रद्दीबदल करने की जरूरत है। उनको चाहिए कि वह अपने एक्सपर्ट्स से मिलें और देखें कि कितना रद्दीबदल कर सकते हैं और उसको करे।

मैं खास तौर पर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आकाशवाणी से जो न्यूज बुलेटिन रोज प्रसारित किए जाते हैं, उनकी संख्या लगभग ७८ है। उनमें से २८ हिन्दी तथा दूसरी रीजनल लैंग्वेजेंज में प्रसारित किए जाते हैं।

हमारे एक विरोधी दल के मित्र ने कहा कि जो हमारे पंचवर्षीय योजना के प्रोग्राम हैं,

वे ठीक तरह से प्रसारित नहीं किए जाते। लेकिन यह बात नहीं है। इसी तरह से अगर आप देखें तो आपको मालूम होगा कि जिस वक्त चुनाव हो रहा था उस वक्त जैसे ही चुनाव का खबरे आकाशवाणी ने पास पहुंचती थी, जैसे ही वे प्रसारित की जाती थी। जो हमारे यहां का न्यूज रोल है उस की तरफ अगर सदन का ध्यान जाए तो मालूम होगा कि हमारे माननीय प्राइम मिनिस्टर महोदय ने जब अपना दौरा अभी किया तो उसका फिल्म्स भी गई और उनके समाचार रेडियो से दिए गए। हमारे देश में भी जो बातें होती हैं उनका समावेश कर के न्यूज रोल के जरिए से बताया जाता है। यही नहीं विलायत में इसके लिए एक आदमी मुकर्रर है जो इन सब चीजों को वहां से भेजता है। यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि हमारे आकाशवाणी के जो मंत्री महोदय हैं वे इस मामले में ठीक से अप्रसर नहीं हुए हैं। गलतियां हो सकती हैं, लेकिन उनको ठीक किया जा रहा है। जब कोई कार्य किया जाता है तो धीरे धीरे किया जाता है। उसको जल्दी में करके असावधानी से नहीं किया जा रहा है, जैसा कि हमारे मित्रों का ख्याल है। जो हमारा गाने और नाटक का विभाग है उसने भी बहुत तरक्की की है। इस विभाग में पंचवर्षीय योजना, कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट क्लक्स और नदी घाटी योजनाओं के बारे में जो हमारा प्रोग्राम है उसका जनता में काफी प्रचार किया है। इस विभाग द्वारा जनता को मालूम होता है कि आज हमारे देश में क्या हो रहा है। इस डिबीजन में १२६ ड्रामेटिक मस्थाओं का समावेश है। १९५६ में ३६० प्रोग्राम नाटकों के लिए किये गये और करीब ६७ फोक ड्रास दिखाये गये। विभिन्न स्टेशनों से पंचवर्षीय योजना के सम्बन्ध में करीब २००० प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किये गये थे। सब से बड़ी बात जो १९५६ में हुई वह यह थी कि आकाशवाणी के जो प्रोग्राम हैं उनके डाक्यूमेंटरी फिल्म्स तैयार किये गये और उन्हें प्रसारित किया गया।

[सरकार प्र० वि० सहायक]

हमारे म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम में आप देखें कि अप्रैल १९५६ के महीने में क्लासिकल बोकल के १२१४, क्लासिकल इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ७८३, फोक बोकल के ११८, लाइट बोकल के ८५१ और लाइट म्यूजिक इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ६० प्रोग्राम हुए। अब आप देखें कि मार्च १९५७ में हम कहाँ पहुँचे हैं। आपको फिगरस देखने से मालूम होगा कि मार्च १९५७ में क्लासिकल म्यूजिक के १३४८, क्लासिक इंस्ट्रुमेंट के ८७७, फोक बोकल में १६८, लाइट बोकल में १०६३, लाइट इंस्ट्रुमेंट में ११७, प्रोग्राम ए।

फील्ड पब्लिसिटी धार्मनाइजेशन ने सन् १९५६-५७ में ६५२८ जगहों का दौरा किया और वहाँ पर १०,५७७ फिल्म जो दिखावाये और ६६६५ सार्वजनिक समारोह संगठित की और उनमें लोगों को बतलाया। सन् १९५३-५४ में इस प्रकार के जो आदि ५० लाख आदिमियों को दिखाये गये जब कि सन् १९५६-५७ में १४० लाख लोगों को इन प्रोग्रामों से फायदा हुआ। फिल्म डिवीजन ने अपनी कुछ फिल्म दूसरे लोगों को दी। उनसे सन् १९५३-५४ में जहाँ ३४.४६ लाख की आमदनी हुई वहाँ सन् १९५६-५७ में ४०.४५ लाख की आमदनी हुई। इसे मालूम होता है कि हमारे फिल्म डिवीजन की कितनी उन्नति हो रही है। इसी के साथ ही साथ आप देखें कि १-४-५३ से ३१-३-५३ तक जनरल पब्लिसिटी की ७११८ फिल्म स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को दी गयीं, ३५८५ से ल गवर्नमेंट फील्ड यूनिट्स को दी गयीं, १५६६ डेबेलपमेंट कमिशनर्स को दी गयीं, ७६६ फिल्म डिवीजन के ब्रांच आफिसों को दी गयीं, और २५ एग्जिबिशन डिवीजन को दी गयीं, इस तरह से कुल १३,१२८ फिल्में इन विभिन्न संस्थाओं को दी गयीं।

इसके अलावा आप देखेंगे कि जो हमारे डाकमेंटी फिल्म बने हैं उनमें से बहुतों विदेशों में बहुत नाम पैदा किया है जैसे नीतम बुद्ध, भारत, दर्शन, सागराही आदि।

हमारे पब्लिकेशन डिवीजन ने सन् १९५६-५७ में २८३ किताबें निकालीं और इसके पहले सन् १९५३-५४ में इस डिवीजन ने कुल ७३ किताबें निकालीं थीं। इससे हाउस समझ सकता है कि हम अग्रसर हो रहे हैं या नहीं। इसी तरह से आप देखें कि स डिवीजन ने सन् १९५२-५३ में २.६४ लाख की किताबें बेचीं जब कि १९५६-५७ में १६.८५ लाख की बेचीं।

इस दिशा में भी हम अग्रसर हो रहे हैं।

इसके अलावा आप देखें कि जिस किताब का मूल्य सन् १९५१-५२ में ४ ६० ३ आना ११ पाई था उसका मूल्य सन् १९५६-५७ में १ रुपया १० आना ४ पाई हो गया। छपाई के खर्चों को स तरह से कम करके हम बहुत सस्ते में उत्तम साहित्य जनता को सुलभ कर रहे हैं।

अन्त में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करूँगा कि यह जरूरी है कि छत्तीस गढ़ी भाषा के लिए भी एक छोटा सा रेडियो स्टेशन बनावे और जो मध्यप्रदेश का बाइ-कास्टिंग स्टेशन है उसको बढ़ावें। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि इस काम को प्राज ही करें। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि जब आप सुविधापूर्वक कर सकें तब करें। मैं आपसे छत्तीसगढ़ी भाषा के सीत का प्रसार करने के लिए प्रार्थना करूँगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ जो डिमांड्स रखी गयी हैं उनका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED STRIKE BY P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shrimati Uma Nehru. Before the hon. Member commences her speech, I would like to call upon the Minister of Transport and Communications to make a statement.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I shall take only two minutes.

The House will be glad to know that the General Secretary of the P and T Federation has informed that the strike has been called off.

I would merely like to congratulate the Federation for the wise decision they have taken and I am quite certain that it will give great relief to all the people in our country who were greatly exercised over this matter.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (West Dinajpur): Should we not congratulate our Ministers?

An Hon. Member: By all means.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS—Contd.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—contd.

जीवन्ती ज्वा नहुक (सतापुर). श्रीमान् जी, इनफार्मेशन और ब्राडकास्टिंग का महकमा बड़े महत्व का है। जिसके हाथ में यह महकमा होता है वह वह अच्छा भी कर सकता है और बुरा भी कर सकता है। आज हमको इस महकमे की उन्नति देखकर बड़ी खुशी होती है। दस वर्ष पहले जिस वक्त हुकूमत हमारे हाथ में आयी थी उस वक्त स महकमे की बुरी हालत थी। ब्राडकास्टिंग स्टेशन में तो बिल्कुल सफा मैदान था।

इस सिलसिले में हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने बड़ी मेहनत की और हमारे बर्कज ने भी बड़ा काम किया। मैं उन सब को बधाई देना चाहती हूँ। ब्राडकास्टिंग की यह तरक्की देख कर सारे देश को खुशी होती है। मुझे खास तौर से इसलिये खुशी होती है कि मैं इस मिनिस्ट्री की रिपोर्ट में देखती हूँ कि इस देश की समस्त जवानों को—हिन्दुस्तान की चौदह रिजनल सैगुएजिज को—ब्राडकास्टिंग के प्रोग्राम में जगह दी गई है और उन सब की तरक्की की गई है। मैं समझती हूँ कि अपनी सैगुएजिज को—और खास तौर से वहाँ की रिजनल सैगुएजिज को और बेहतर जवानों को—बारों तरफ, सारे देश

में फैलाया और उन को पापुलर बनाना एक बहुत अच्छी बात है। मुझे याद है कि जब मैं बाढ़ना पहुँची, तो स्टेशन पर रेडियो खूब बज रहे थे—मैं जिबर गई, ऊपर रेडियो को आवाज आने लगी। शुरू शुरू में मैं यह समझी कि शायद यह हमारे डेसीगेशन का स्वागत हो रहा है, लेकिन मुझे एक चीनी से मालूम हुआ कि यह बात नहीं है। दरअसल बात यह है कि वहाँ पर रेडियो बहुत बड़ा काम करता है। वहाँ पर सिला का काम, हेल्थ के बारे में प्रचार और माइनोरिटी सैगुएजिज का काम सब रेडियो से होता है। वहाँ हर वक्त इस किस्म के एलान होते रहते हैं कि “फल खा कर छिलके जमीन पर मत फेंको, डस्टबिन में फेंको”, “मक्खियाँ फ़लां फ़लां बीमारियाँ फैलाती हैं”, वगैरह वगैरह। मैं चाहती हूँ कि भारत में भी ऐसा ही नक्सा हो। हम लोग भी मक्खियों से बहुत परेशान हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि वहाँ से मक्खियाँ बिल्कुल खली जाय।

स्पेशल प्रोग्राम मैं बड़ी दिलचस्पी से सुनती हूँ, खास तौर पर उन प्रोग्रामों को, जिन में रिजनल कल्चर की बात होती है। मैं खुद तो गायी नहीं हूँ, लेकिन गाने की शौकीन हूँ। मुझे गाना पसन्द है। इस बात में कोई शक नहीं कि क्लासिकल म्यूजिक अच्छा होता है और मुझे पसन्द भी है, लेकिन हम को दुनिया की रविश के साथ चलना है। आज-कल दुनिया की हालत यह है कि लोग फ़िल्मी गानों के बड़े शौकीन हो गये हैं और ज्यादातर फ़िल्मी गाने ही चाहते हैं, जैसे “लारा लप्पा” है। मुझे खुशी है कि हमारे ब्राडकास्टिंग स्टेशनों ने लाइट म्यूजिक में भी उन्नति की है। लाइट म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम में जो गीत और भजन वगैरह होते हैं, मैं उन को सुनती रहती हूँ और वे काफ़ी अच्छे होते हैं, लेकिन हमारे गीत-जवानों को उस से भी ज्यादा की जरूरत है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब इस बात पर गौर करें और लाइट म्यूजिक के प्रोग्राम को और आगे बढ़ावें।

[श्रीमती उमा नेहरू]

हमारे देश का फोक म्यूजिक भी बहुत सुन्दर होता है। मैंने अपनी कई बहनों से कहा कि मुझे तो पार्लियामेंट जाने से कुरसत नहीं मिलती है, आप तो रेडियो से सावन के गीत सुनती होंगी। उन्होंने ने कहा कि मिर्जापुर की कजली, सावन के गीत, बारहमासी, झूले के गीत, इन में से कोई भी रेडियो से सुनने को नहीं मिलते। मैं चाहती हूँ कि फोक साम्राज्य और मौसमी गानों के प्रोग्राम रखे जाने चाहिये। मैं जानती हूँ कि पहले सावन के महीने में कितनी खूबसूरत फ्रिजा होती थी—चारों तरफ झूले के गाने होते थे, लेकिन आज सावन के गीतों के बजाय मुहर्रमी फ्रिजा चारों तरफ दिखाई देती है—जिधर देखो, उधर सप्ताटा दिखाई देता है। मेरी स्वाहिश है कि हमारी मिनिस्ट्री फोक म्यूजिक की तरफ ध्यान दे।

जहाँ तक न्यूज बुलिटन का ताल्लुक है रिपोर्ट में छिद्र किया गया है और सहगल साहब ने सब कुछ बता दिया है कि उस में कितनी तरक्की हुई है। उस के मुताल्लिक मैं क्या कहूँ ?

ड्रामा डिबिजन में भी बहुत तरक्की हुई है। आप ने सारे भारत में फ्राइव यीथर प्लेन का इशतिहार किया है और लोगों को एजुकेट किया है। एक स्टेशन से नहीं, बल्कि कई स्टेशनों से हम फ्राइव यीथर प्लेन के बारे में प्रोग्राम सुन सकते हैं।

जहाँ तक डाकुमेंटरी फ़िल्म्स का ताल्लुक है, मुझे उन का बड़ा शौक है और मैं धूमन उन को देखती रहती हूँ। उन में से मुझे "मैजिक आफ़ दि माउनटेन्स", "ट्री आफ़ वेल्य" और "बैंडर आफ़ दि वल्ड" बहुत ही सुन्दर और अच्छे लगे। उन को देख कर मुझे खुशी हुई कि आज हम इतने खूबसूरत और ऊँचे दर्जे के फ़िल्म तैयार कर सकते हैं।

आप का पब्लिकेशन्स डिबिजन जो पैम्फ्लेट्स और किताबें निकालता है, मैं उन को देखा करती हूँ। एक भाई ने कहा है कि उन का सबजैक्ट-मैटर बेकार होता है। मैं समझती हूँ कि यह सलत बात है, क्योंकि मैं बराबर उन को पढ़ा करती हूँ और इसलिये जानती हूँ कि उन में क्या है और उन का गेट-अप वगैरह कैसा है।

मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से एक बात यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि भगवें उन की मिनिस्ट्री ने बहुत तरक्की की है और बहुत अच्छा काम किया है, लेकिन मैं चारों तरफ सुनती हूँ कि जो लोग इस महकमे में काम करते हैं, उन को ठीक तन्ख्वाहें नहीं मिलती हैं, उन की पोजीशन अजीब है, अजीब तरह की उन की सर्विसिज हैं, आर्टिस्ट्स लो-पेड हैं, वगैरह। यह भी कहा जाता है कि उन लोगों को आक्रिप्शिएटिंग बेसिस पर रखा जाता है और जो स्त्रिया यूनिथन पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन से चुनी जाती हैं, वे मुस्तकिल नहीं की जाती हैं। इस के अलावा रेगुलर और पर्मानेंट पोस्ट्स में कोई भी स्त्री नहीं है। उन में सिर्फ एक स्त्री है, जिस के बारे में कहा जाता है कि वह मिनिस्टर साहब के आने से पहले की है। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से दरखास्त करूंगी कि उन को इस तरह तबज्जह देनी चाहिये, क्योंकि मैं जिधर भी जाती हूँ, मुझे लोगों के विलों से यह सवाल हटाना पड़ता है कि मिनिस्टर साहब को स्त्रियों से कास उलझन होती है। मुझे बताना पड़ता है कि यह सवाल सलत है। लोग मुझ से शिकायत करते हैं कि रेडियो स्टेशन पर कोई भी ऐसी बहान नहीं है, जोकि मुस्तकिल हो, जो बहुत टेलेन्टिड और काबिल हैं, वे भी आगे नहीं बढ़ी हैं। इतना तो मैं समझती हूँ कि बदकिस्मती से मिनिस्टर साहब सावीभूता नहीं हैं। अगर आज वह सावीभूता होते, तो यह

नामुमकिन है कि स्त्रियों को जरा भी सिकायत होती ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बदकिस्मती तो बहुत आसानी से दूर की जा सकती है ।

श्रीमती उषा नेहरू : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, दुनिया में जो चीजे आसान दिखती हैं, वह दरअसल आसान नहीं होती हैं—वे बहुत मुश्किल होती हैं, इसलिये यह तो एक बंडर आप दि बल्ड होगा अगर आप और हम सब मिल कर अपने मिनिस्टर साहब को शादीशुदा कर दें ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरा तो यही ख्याल था कि आप इस को आसानी से कर सकती हैं ।

श्रीमती उषा नेहरू : मैं तो हार गई । यह मेरी ताकत से बाहर है ।

ज्यादा न कह कर आखिर मैं मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप के महकमे में जो उन्नति की है, उस के लिये मैं आप को और महकमे को मुबारकबाद देती हूँ । एक बात मैं जरूर आप को बता देना चाहती हूँ कि जब तक भारत की स्त्री—भारत की माता—आगे नहीं जायेगी, जब तक उस की दशा में परिवर्तन नहीं होगा, जब तक उस की उन्नति नहीं होगी, तब तक भारत की असली उन्नति नहीं हो सकेगी ।

श्री भवन वर्मा (यड़वाल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के मंत्री डा० केसकर साहब को बहुत ही हादिक बधाइयाँ देता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने अपने कार्यकाल में इस महकमे के सभी विभागों में बड़ी प्रशंसनीय उन्नति की है । आकाश-वाणी में से कर फिल्म डिजिटल, प्रेस इन्फार्मेशन ब्यूरो इत्यादि सभी विभागों में बड़ी प्रशंसनीय उन्नति हुई है । मेरे पास पूरा खयाल नहीं है, इसलिये जो उन्नति हुई उस का मैं उल्लेख नहीं कर सकता हूँ ।

फिर हमारे मित्र श्री सहगल साहब ने सारी रिपोर्ट को ही पढ़ कर सुना दिया है, इसलिये भी मैं उस को दोहराना नहीं चाहता और यह बतलाना आवश्यक नहीं समझता कि कितना प्रशंसनीय कार्य हुआ है ।

पिछले दिनों यह विन्ताजनक भ्रमवाह उठी थी कि इस मंत्रालय को गृह-मंत्रालय में शायद विलीन कर दिया जायगा । यह बड़ी प्रसन्नता की बात है कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह निश्चय कर लिया है कि इस मंत्रालय को स्वतंत्र मंत्रालय रहने दिया जाय ; क्योंकि अभी भी हमारे देश में सूचना तथा प्रसारण के कार्यक्रम ठीक ढंग से प्रसारित करने की बहुत आवश्यकता है । आप को याद होगा कि पिछली संसद् में जबकि एक विधेयक पर यहाँ बहस हो रही थी, उस समय मैं ने माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित किया था कि यहाँ दिल्ली केन्द्र से ही हमारी काश्मीर-सम्बन्धी नीति किस प्रकार से गलत तरीके से पेश की जाती है और किस प्रकार से भ्रमपूर्ण प्रचार किया जाता है । इस के बाद राज्य सभा में भी और इस सदन में भी शासन का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित किया गया था, लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी हम लोगों के पास जोकि संसद् के सदस्य हैं, प्रायः प्रतिदिन सुबह ही, कोई न कोई लिफाफा पहुँच जाता है । एक महिला, जिस का मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ और जिन से सब लोग परिचित हैं, उन के द्वारा तथा उन के साक्षियों के द्वारा अभी भी हमारे देश के विभिन्न भागों में जिस तरह का प्रचार किया जा रहा है, जिस तरह से भारत की नीति के बारे में भ्रम फैलाया जा रहा है, मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी हमारे इस मंत्रालय ने उस के सम्बन्ध में कोई जबरदस्त कदम नहीं उठाया है । इसलिये भी इस मंत्रालय को असल रखा गया है, इस के लिये मैं बधाई देता हूँ ।

सरकार ज० सिंह सहजल : कापियां साइमोन्सदास हो कर हमारे पास आ जाती हैं ।

श्री जगत वर्मन : मैं इस के बारे कुछ अधिक न कह कर के इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि इस ओर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को इसलिये भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि बहुत वर्षों के आन्दोलन के बाद जिस प्रेस-आयोग की स्थापना की गई थी उस की सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने में उन्होंने ने काफी क्षीप्रता से और तत्परता से कार्य किया है । उस आयोग ने चार मुख्य सिफारिशें की थीं । उस आयोग ने तत्पक्ष से पहली सिफारिश प्रेस-रजिस्ट्रार की नियुक्ति के सम्बन्ध में की थी, और सन् १९५५ में इस ससद् ने जो 'समाचार पत्र तथा पुस्तक रजिस्ट्रेशन अधिनियम' स्वीकार किया था उसे १ जुलाई, १९५६ से लागू किया गया और अभी हाल ही में माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रेस-रजिस्ट्रार की रिपोर्ट, जोकि १ जुलाई से दिसम्बर, १९५६ तक की है, उसे यहाँ पर सदन की मेज पर रखा था । इस से हमारे समाचारपत्र-उद्योग पर बहुत अच्छा प्रकाश पड़ता है । इस से यह सिद्ध होता है कि हमारे देश में जितने भी समाचार-पत्र निकलते हैं उन की संख्या ६५७० है और रिपोर्ट में यह भी बताया गया है कि उन में से सब से बड़ी संख्या में हिन्दी के समाचारपत्र निकलते हैं यानी १२५४ । इस का जो दूसरा पहलू है वह यह है कि हिन्दी के समाचार पत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या संतोषजनक नहीं है । ६४ लाख कुल ग्राहक-संख्या है, जिस में से अंग्रेजी के समाचारपत्र पढ़ने वालों की कुल संख्या २३ लाख ५० हजार है । इस के विपरीत हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या १६ लाख है ; तथा अन्य भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों की ग्राहक-संख्या तो इस से भी कम है ।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि बेल कमीशन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह सिफारिश की थी कि अभी तक हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों को सरकारी विज्ञापन, जितनी उन की ग्राहक-संख्या है, उस मात्रा में नहीं दिये जाते हैं । हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस सदन में कई बार आश्वासन दिया है कि वे इस बारे में निष्पक्ष नीति का पालन करेंगे । मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस सदन को यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने जो आश्वासन दिये वे प्रेस आयोग की सिफारिशों के ऊपर, उन पर कहां तक भ्रमल किया जा रहा है, और हिन्दी के समाचारपत्रों को अंग्रेजी के समाचारपत्रों के मुकाबले में सरकारी विज्ञापन किस मात्रा में दिये जा रहे हैं, ताकि उन की आर्थिक स्थिति सुधरे हो सके ।

प्रेस-आयोग ने दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश भ्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में की थी । उन के सम्बन्ध में भी एक अधिनियम बनाया जा चुका है । लेकिन खेद का विषय है कि कुछ पत्र-संचालकों ने, पत्र मालिकों ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जो 'रिट' दायर किया है, जो मुकदमा चल रहा है, उस की वजह से इस कार्य को आघात पहुंचा है । मैं आशा करता हूँ कि दोनों पक्षों में इस बीच कोई समझौता हा जायगा और किसी एक ऐसी नीति का पालन किया जायेगा, जिस से कि अधिक से अधिक उन सिफारिशों को, जोकि जे. बाई ने की थी, कार्यान्वित किया जा सके ।

तीसरी सिफारिश जोकि प्रेस कमीशन ने की थी वह ग्राहक वेज सैद्धयुक्त यानी मूलानुसार पृष्ठ-संख्या के बारे में थी और उस के बारे में हम ने एक अधिनियम की स्वीकार किया था । लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि अभी तक भी, उस अधिनियम के बन जाने के बाद भी, उसे लागू नहीं किया गया है । कई महीनों से समाचारपत्रों की ओर से यह मांग की जा रही है कि अक्षराक्षरी

कागज को कभी की बजह से उस अधिनियम को लागू किया जाय ; उस बिल को तैयार किया जाय । मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि उन के प्रयत्न सफल होंगे और बिल ही इस नये बिल को लागू किया जा सकेगा ।

मेरी माननीय मंत्री जी से एक और शिकायत है और वह प्रैस काउंसिल बिल के बारे में है । पिछले दिनों जब पिछली संसद की ठक हो रही थी तो राज्य सभा में उस को पेश किया गया था और वहाँ उस का स्वीकार भी कर लिया गया था । उन दिनों माननीय मंत्री जी को इतनी जल्दी थी कि वे उस को प्रवर समिति के सुपुर्द करने की मांग को भी स्वीकार नहीं कर सके थे तथा वहाँ हम में कोई विशेष संशोधन न हो सके । वहाँ पर उस विधेयक को स्वीकार कर लेने के बाद अब हालत यह पैदा हो गई है कि उस बिल को, जो राज्य सभा में स्वीकार किया जा चुका है, लैप्स होने दिया गया और उस को दुबारा इस सदन में नहीं लिया जा रहा है ।

डा० कोसकर वह तो लैप्स हो चुका है ।

श्री भक्त वरुण जी हा, लेकिन मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि प्रैस आयोग की सिफारिशों में सब से महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश यही है । समाचारपत्रों का स्तर ऊँचा करने के लिये, उन के सामने एक आदर्श स्थापित करने के लिये, उन को ठीक ढाँचे पर लाने के लिये, उन की स्थिति को सुदृढ़ करने के लिये, सब दृष्टियों से यह बड़ा आवश्यक है कि प्रैस काउंसिल की स्थापना की जाये ।

सलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि इस में देरी न की जाय और शासन जल्दी से जल्दी, चाहे उसी रूप में और चाहे संशोधित रूप में, उस को सदन के साथ लाये ।

अब एक छोटी सी बात में प्रैस आयोग की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में और कहना चाहता हूँ । मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि उसका हिन्दी संस्करण अभी तक प्रकाशित नहीं किया गया है । मैंने तथा एक दो और सदस्यों ने अनुरोध किया था कि यह चूँकि एक ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज़ है, चूँकि प्रैस आयोग के सिफारिशों में प्रैस आयोग का सारा इतिहास दिया गया है और उस समय देश में जो स्थिति थी उस पर प्रकाश डाला गया है, इस लिये उसका हिन्दी संस्करण निकालना बहुत आवश्यक है, और मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि उस संस्करण को जल्दी से जल्दी प्रकाशित करवाने की वे कृपा करेंगे ।

आकाशवाणी के सम्बन्ध में यहाँ पर कई माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार प्रकट किए हैं । अभी हमारे प्रजासमाजवादी सदस्य श्री घोष कह रहे थे और अपने भाषण में उन्होंने आकाशवाणी पर यह आरोप भी लगाया कि आकाशवाणी ने चुनाव के वक्त तथा दूसरे अवसरों पर भी एक तरह से कांग्रेस के पक्ष में, सरकार के पक्ष में, प्रचार किया है और उनकी कार्रवाहियों के प्रसारण को अधिक समय तथा स्थान दिया है । मैं इस आरोप का बड़ी विनम्रता के प्रतिवाद करना चाहता हूँ । आकाशवाणी ने जो नीति निर्धारित की थी वह यह थी कि चारों पक्ष, जिन को कि इलेक्शन कमीशन की ओर से मान्यता प्राप्त है, उस को बराबर अवसर दिया जाये कि वे अपने चुनाव घोषणापत्रों को प्रसारित करवा सकें इतना होने पर भी तीन दलों ने उसकी स्वीकार नहीं किया, इसलिये उस सुविधा को वापिस ले लिया गया था । लेकिन इस के सिवाय भी अगर आकाशवाणी ने, जोकि 'गवर्नमेंट आफ दि डे' (आज की सरकार) है, उस के कार्यों का प्रचार नहीं करना तो वह है किस मर्ज की दवा ? वह तो इसी लिये है कि वह पंच वर्षीय योजना का प्रचार करे, देश के अन्दर जो विकास-कार्य हो रहे

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

हैं, उन का प्रचार करे, देश में जो प्रगति हो रही है उस से लोगों को परिचित रखे। अगर इस सब को पार्टी का प्रचार माना जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि आप को पार्टी तथा सरकार की जो परिभाषा है, उस को ही बदलना पड़ेगा। मैं तो आल इंडिया रेडियो के संचालकों को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने बड़ी तत्परता और निष्पक्षता के साथ चुनाव के दिनों में कार्य किया और उस के लिये वे प्रशंसा के पात्र हैं।

मेरी आदरणीय बहिन उमा नेहरू जी कह रही थीं कि लोक-संगीत का प्रचार किया जाय। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ कि हमारे संविधान में जितनी भी भाषायें स्वीकृत हैं, उन को किसी न किसी केन्द्र से प्रसारित किया जा रहा है। पहले जहाँ छः रेडियो स्टेशन थे, वहाँ अब २६ हो चुके हैं। उन से हिन्दी भाषा का तथा हिन्दी की जनपदीय भाषाओं का भी कुछ न कुछ प्रचार हो रहा है। उदाहरणस्वरूप, दिल्ली केन्द्र से ब्रज भाषा का तथा लखनऊ से अवधी का प्रसारण किया जा रहा है। यह बड़ा सुन्दर कार्य है और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस को और आगे बढ़ाया जायगा।

मैं चूँकि पर्वतीय क्षेत्र से आता हूँ, इसलिये उस के बारे में मैं खास तौर से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मैं उन्हें बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि शिमला में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जा चुका है, जिस से हिमाचल प्रदेश की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति होगी। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश के जो पांच पर्वतीय जिले हैं, उन के लिये भी बहुत दिनों से मांग चली आ रही है। मैं इस समय यह मांग तो नहीं करना चाहता कि उन के लिये तत्काल अलग रेडियो स्टेशन खोला जाय। लेकिन उन जिलों का विभाजन इस प्रकार हो सकता है कि अल्मोड़ा तथा नैनीताल के जिले लखनऊ स्टेशन के साथ; और गढ़वाल, टिहरी तथा देहरादून के जिले, चूँकि ये दिल्ली के नजदीक हैं, दिल्ली

के साथ जोड़े जा सकते हैं और इन दो स्टेशनों से खास तौर से उन के लिये प्रोग्राम प्रसारित किये जा सकते हैं। अभी तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि हम लोगों के अनुरोध पर उन्होंने ने फौजी कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत सप्ताह में दो बार शायद पांच-पांच या दस-दस मिनट के लिये गढ़वाली ग्राम गीतों का भी प्रसारण प्रारम्भ कर दिया है। इस के लिये मैं गढ़वाली भाषा-भाषी जनता की ओर से उन को बधाई देता हूँ। लेकिन मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस के सम्बन्ध में कई शिकायतें आ रही हैं कि इस का स्तर अच्छा नहीं है, तथा उसके लिये कोई भी अलग से विभाग नहीं खोला गया है। इसलिये मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी भी ये जनपदीय भाषायें हैं या लोक-संगीत के कार्यक्रम हैं, इनको अच्छी तरह से चलाने के लिये खास तौर से एक विभाग होना चाहिये। फौजी कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत इसको रख कर कोई सफलता नहीं मिल सकती है और उसका स्तर ऊँचा नहीं हो सकता है। उसके लिये एक अलग सेक्सन होना चाहिये उसके लिये पूरे समय का एक कार्यकर्त्ता नियुक्त किया जाय या कम से कम एक अच्छा जानकार परामर्शदाता ही नियुक्त किया जाय, और साथ ही उस के जितने भी उपक्रम हों, और साधन हों, उनको जुटाया जाय। इस प्रकार से ही हम लोक-संगीत के द्वारा अपनी जनता के मानस-पटल की गहराई तक पहुँच सकते हैं और अपने संदेश को पहुँचा सकते हैं।

चूँकि समय समाप्त हो गया है, इसलिये मैं और अधिक न कह कर मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे मेरे इन सुझावों पर विचार करने की कृपा करें।

Shri Ansar Harvani (Fatehpur): I congratulate the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting on the way in which he has attempted to implement the various recommendations of the Press Commission, though the press barons, who for years and

years have been living on the blood and sweat of the working journalists, made every effort to sabotage the recommendations of the Commission. But I feel, as my hon. friend has just now referred, that some of the recommendations have yet to be implemented. I hope and trust that the hon. Minister will not be hoodwinked by the press barons and that all the recommendations will be implemented within a few months.

Quite a lot has been said about the Indian broadcasting system. Radio has come to stay as one of the most important weapons of publicity, information, education and entertainment. But I am afraid I have to confess that the All India Radio has not succeeded in all these three or four media in the way in which it ought to have succeeded.

As far as education is concerned, sometimes school broadcasts are provided, sometimes University broadcasts are made and women and children's programmes are also given. But, they have not reached the standard that we desire them to reach. We hope and trust that in future efforts will be made to see that these school, university and women and children's programmes are more popular.

As far as entertainment is concerned, I confess that we have failed to a greater extent. I would like the hon. Minister to knock at the door of any listener in Delhi and to see for himself. What do we find? We have citizens in Delhi, not only in Delhi, but in most of the cities, who are not being entertained by the All India Radio. They switch on to Radio Ceylon or to Voice of America. They are resorting to other Radio stations for entertainment because we have not catered to their need. I quite admit that some film music and certain film songs have been quite vulgar. I quite admit that the music provided by Radio Ceylon is vulgar. But, we have classical programmes which go over the head of the people. A programme which goes over the head of the people is not worth while. We should provide a programme which can be popular among the people.

So far as the popularity of the Indian broadcasting system is concerned, I will refer to the publication of the Indian Listener. Popularity can be judged from the fact, how many people possessing radio sets really listen to Indian broadcasting and how many listen to outside broadcasting systems, with reference to the number of receivers which are in this country, and from the number of copies which are taken in the form of the Indian Listener and Sarang and other publications.

I may also refer to the fact that the Listener produced by the B.B.C. has almost become an institution in the U. K. and among the English-reading and English-speaking people. The Indian Listener, for the present reminds us of nothing but a railway time table. I would like the Minister and the authorities in the All India Radio to improve its publication so that it may become a really popular publication worth reading by the people and may not appear just a railway time table.

As far as the publicity of the Five Year Plan is concerned, I can assure the hon. Minister that we are quite satisfied with it. A lot has been done. The Five Year Plan has been very much publicised. Many aspects of it have reached the people. But, much more could have been done. We have seen certain journals which are being published in the form of integrated publicity under the Five Year Plan. I find a lot of scope for improvement in these publications. I am sure, in due course improvements will be made.

Recently, we received the publication Yojana fortnightly. I understand that much more money is being spent on a fortnightly publication than the money usually spent on even on a weekly paper. I hope and trust, the hon. Minister will look into this and make enquiries about it.

I know I do not have much time at my disposal. I hope and trust that the Indian broadcasting system and our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which has all the media

[Shri Ansar Harvani]

of publicity will utilise these media to really educate the people. For instance, we remember that some time back, we had riots following the S.R.C. report. If the background material had been given to the people in the correct form, and if the material had been given to the press in the correct form, explaining what all the implications of the S.R.C. report, and if the press had carried these particulars to the people, many of the bickerings, many of the misunderstandings would have been removed. Fortunately, the P & T strike has been averted, we are very grateful about it, we are very happy about it—on the eve of this threatened strike except giving certain hand outs and publicising the statements of our great Prime Minister and our Ministers, we have not been able to give the correct background to the press, so far as I know about what has been done so far to the employees in the P & T department. That was the duty of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. We should create an atmosphere among the people, we should create a feeling among the people, we should educate the people, we should give real hand-outs to the press, so that they may form the real and nice background material for their writings.

17 hrs.

In passing, I might refer to Kashmir also. While everybody in India and abroad knows about the atrocities that were committed in Hungary, while everybody in India and abroad knows about the atrocities that were committed in Algeria, I confess that we have failed to inform the world or the Indian people about the atrocities that are being committed on the people of Kashmir on that side of the cease-fire line. It was the duty of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to have exposed the atrocities that are being committed on our countrymen on that side of the cease-fire line, and I hope and trust that suitable steps will be taken in that direction.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The following are the selected cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which have been indicated by the Members to be moved subject to their being otherwise admissible:

Demand No	No. of Cut Motion
64	1317, 1318, 1319, 1332.
65	1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337.
66	1338, 1339.

Policy regarding the film industry in India

Shri Mahagaonkar (Kolhapur). I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Lack of patronage to the best films

Shri Mahagaonkar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Need to provide broadcasting centre of high power for Marathi speaking people in Maharashtra

Shri Mahagaonkar: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Need to intensify the existing 28 Radio Stations instead of increasing them

Shri Tangamani (Madurai). I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Need to transmit national programmes from regional relays instead of getting all artists to Delhi

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Need to broadcast news from regional stations instead of from the Delhi Station

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Early switching over of external services to the Madras Station

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to provide housing facilities for the All India Radio staff in Delhi

Shri Tangamani. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Implementation of 'News and Information Cadre' proposals regarding recruitment, training, promotions, etc

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Speeding up of High Power Transmitter near Trichinopoly

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100"

Neglect to improve the Broadcasting station at Trichinopoly, in Madras State

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these cut motions are before the House

Shri Mahagaonkar (Kolhapur)
Many hon Members have talked about broadcasting already, and I am going to deal particularly with the film industry in this country

The film industry is one of the important industries in this country, and it collects an annual attendance of six y crores of people It represents a capital investment of about Rs 32 crores, and it fixes assets Rs 9 crores as the working capital It earns an income of about Rs 20 crores a year It is said that this industry is the second biggest industry in the world, next, of course, to the one in the USA

In spite of this, this industry has not achieved so far anything like an efficient organisation or a business like management It is very surprising that this industry has been neglected by Government It was only in the year 1927 or 1928 that Government investigated into this industry, and again, in 1951 they had the Film Enquiry Committee

The Film Enquiry Committee of 1951 have given a complete picture of this industry in the most poetical manner They have stated in their report

"In the net of every wave exist a hundred gaping mouths of crocodiles See what the rain-drop goes through before it becomes a pearl"

That is the condition in this industry; particularly, the working classes have been neglected While in the case of the workers in other industries, there are laws such as the Factories Act and so on, yet the working classes in this industry cannot enjoy such privileges

Although it is said that film is a medium of culture and education, yet the condition of the working classes in this industry is so bad that it is high time for Government to come forward with some legislation in respect of this industry and give a

[Shri Mahagaonkar]

guarantee to the working classes as regards their wages.

One funny thing about this industry is this. We find that very few people are established in this industry; the rest of them come with the little knowledge and the little money they have, and come forward to produce a picture. Practically, they gamble with their fortune, and along with this gamble, they also gamble with the lives of the working classes in this industry. The urgent need, therefore, is that a proper legislation should be brought forward, so far as the workers in this industry are concerned.

The film is a mechanical means of displaying a large number of photographs to the people, and depicting action and sound. It is true that the film industry is generally controlled by the Film Board of Censors. I congratulate Government on the fact that they have in mind the setting up of a National Film Censor Board. But I do not understand the product that is coming before us today in the name of art; it is so glamorous that people are attracted towards it, and since that becomes the cheapest means of entertainment, people start going to the pictures. We have nearly 2,400 cinema houses in the country and this being the cheapest entertainment it definitely creates some impression on the minds of our people, so far as their life is concerned, and so far as their culture is concerned and so far as their education is concerned. Though there are certain directions and regulations followed by the Film Board of Censors, we very often find how blindly the Members of the Board of Censors pass several films. Recently I went to a picture in Delhi and I was surprised to find that the female artist who played a main role appeared before a court of law in a man's dress and it was impossible even for the police and the Judge to find out that she was a woman; she slips away all of a sudden. Another surprising thing that I saw in a film was that a gangster from Bombay appears

straightway in a Bombay High Court. He was wanted by the police and he appears in an Inspector's dress.

Such are the pictures which are shown. It is definitely a degradation of our law and particularly to the Bombay's efficient police force. Therefore, such pictures should not be shown.

Let me now come to the music in these pictures. Many people have dealt with the subject of classical music versus popular music. I do not know by what name I should call the music in the Indian films of today. It is something of a mixture of Indian and foreign tunes and the outcome has been compared to the noise you get by putting some stones into a vacant box and shaking it. We get all this *dhadam dhadam*; it is merely a means to rob the poor people in the name of art. It is nothing but glamour and should be stopped forthwith. The Members of the Board of Film Censors should be told clearly that they should strictly follow the rules and directions made under the Act.

I would now like to make a small suggestion about this industry. Government has already started a film centre in Bombay. I tried to get some information about this centre, but could not. I would like to know from the Minister concerned the amount spent so far on the production of documentaries and the expenditure that has been incurred by this centre. I would also like to know how many documentaries they have purchased from private persons who produce such documentaries. I hope the Minister will throw some light on these matters.

Once I had an occasion to visit a Bombay film centre. There I found more than about ten to twelve directors on huge salaries and among them I was surprised to find one of my friends. I asked him how long he was working there. He told me that he was working at that centre for the last four or five months and that he

had no work. The entire thing depended upon the Chief Executive of the Centre. I do not know whether that Chief Executive worked under the direction of Government or whether it was his favouritism that gave chances to the youngsters who entered the institution. Documentaries are nowadays a monopoly of the Government. We do want better documentaries. But, as many people have said, the ruling party is taking advantage of this position. They should at least see that the films that are produced in the name of art and culture are of a better quality than what is presented today.

In the light of all these things, I have a suggestion to make with regard to this big industry where so much money is flowing. I would request the Minister that the Indian Cine Studio should be nationalised, and production of the pictures should be left to the private sector. At the same time, I would also urge that proper legislation for the working class of this industry should be enacted. It is not only the people who work as technicians and artistes—these artists who hit the headlines, who are supposed to be the top-notch artistes, do get their pay—but there are also other people who depend upon the producers for a mere salary of Rs. 40 or Rs. 60. Generally a picture takes about three months to be produced; so they get their job for about three months. Then they will have to go to some other producer who comes forward to gamble with his life and fortune and also gamble with the life of this working class.

Therefore, I suggest that proper legislation, such as the Factories Act and others, be made applicable for the working people of this industry. This will ensure some guarantee of their rights and privileges and proper wages for the working class of this industry.

Shri Bahadur Singh (Ludhiana—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to put forward a few points to the Minister

regarding production of the journals published by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

This Ministry produces many journals for itself as well as for other Ministries. *Bhagirath* is published for the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and *Kurukshetra* and *Gram Sevak* for the Ministry of Community Development. This Question has been raised many times in this House and we have been told that there are certain magazines running at a loss.

There are certain reasons for this. I shall venture to give a few. One is that there are too many journals published by the various Ministries and there is a lot of overlapping. There are same articles published in different magazines. Then some magazines are produced on art paper, which is very expensive. The circulation of some of the magazines is so meagre that the Government have been running these for the last so many years and yet not more than 2000 copies are sold. Another reason is that there are also some foreign Governments which are publishing same magazines in this country. They are also published on art paper. It is very good stuff. They do not only give articles about their country, but they write about our country also with all the political bias that they have got. And with so much stuff given and there being so many magazines in the market, people do not buy these government-published magazines.

There is another reason, namely, a lot of repetition. There are certain journals published by the Ministry giving information about various Ministries and there are other journals published by the concerned Ministries themselves.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): We are not in a quorum Sir.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur): What is the harm?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell may be rung—Now there is quorum. He can continue.

Shri Bahadur Singh: Sir, I was explaining that there is a lot of repetition about journals. I would not blame the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for this. Other Ministries publish their own magazines. It is a matter for them also. They should find out and devise ways and means to decrease the number of such publications.

I would like to make a few suggestions. This repetition should be stopped immediately. The number should be decreased. That way overlapping could be stopped and a lot of money would be saved.

I do not find any good in using expensive and good art paper as is used in *Kurukshetra* and others; and, for this purpose ordinary good paper should be used. This way also we will be saving a lot of money.

I would request the hon. Minister that in deciding which journal should be stopped from publication, the only criterion should be the success that the papers have made with the public. There are certain journals which are going on for many years and their sale is near about 2,000 only. They are published on art paper and a lot of advertisement is given to these papers just to compensate their losses. If the magazine is running at a loss what is the good of compensating it by giving so much of advertisement?

There are magazines such as the *Bal Bharati* and the *Yojana* with a sale of more than 10,000. My hon. friend Shri Harwani has made some remarks about *Yojana*. He says that that a lot of money is spent on it. I do not know what is the basis on which he says this. *Yojana* is the only paper which has got more than 11,000 paid circulation in such a short period. No other paper has got so much circulation. About 8,000 copies are distributed to the Community Projects. They are not paying. The Government can save the money of these 8,000

copies of *Yojana* which are going to the Community Projects and they be made paid ones. They should not be distributed free. No other Government journal has ever had this sort of circulation ever since the Publications Division has been set up as the *Yojana*. Some others like *Kurukshetra* which have been going on for so many years have a circulation of less than half that of the *Yojana*. I have been reading it ever since it was started. This is the only paper in which articles of eminent writers, economists and poets have been given, such as those of Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Shri M. M. Shah, Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Shri Minoo Masani, Shri Mulk Raj Anand and some others. No other journal of India gives as much information of the Five Year Plan and our development in the sphere of culture etc. as the *Yojana* does. If Government finds—as some hon. friend said—that it is very expensive, they should stop giving it free to the Community Projects and other people. Its subscription, I think, is about Rs. 2-8 only and any one can easily pay.

Then, about advertisement. I find very little advertisement given to it. The papers which are published on art paper and those which are running at a loss are having 30 and 35 pages of advertisement given to them to compensate them for their losses. If *Yojana* is expensive, Government should give more advertisement to it. If we compare it with the other papers that are now published by Government at least it is not an expensive one. Such information as is given in it is not available in others. I would request the hon. Minister to take up the question with other Ministries and try to decrease the number of journals which are published by the various Ministries. He should stop this repetition. That way the Government will be able to improve the standard of *Yojana* and also save a lot of money.

Shri Keshava (Bangalore City): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have very carefully heard the various observations made by several hon. Members

on the working of this Ministry. I do not want to tire the House by repeating those observations. I just rise to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister just a couple of points that were brought to my notice recently when I went to my constituency after the last Parliament.

Almost at every meeting that I convened in my constituency it was made known to me that there is no Kannada version of the documentaries prepared by the Government. I was told—I am subject to correction—that there is not even one Kannada version of a documentary film. Of course, there is a large number of Tamil population in Bangalore and in the City of Bangalore a Tamil or Hindi documentary would be all right, but two crores of Kannada population are denied of these documentary films because there is no Kannada version. I am very anxious that this grievance should be redressed. I hope my learned colleague will take note of it and see that something is done in that regard.

So far as selection of candidates for audition is concerned, there seems to be something radically wrong in the working of this section, particularly in the AIR at Bangalore. It looks as though—I am speaking subject to correction—the committee does not consist of any local talents and, therefore, persons of renown, local popularity are not called for audition. Even those that are called for audition are not given the proper chance. I am told that they are not even properly treated. Several ladies, I came to know, have to come early in the morning at ten o'clock and wait till five in the evening, and no notice is taken of their inconvenience. Of course, it is a small matter of administration, but still I think this matter should be taken notice by our Minister.

About the national programme, several persons mentioned that in the selection of programmes, particularly Karnataka programmes, there was very great want of rationalisation or discrimination. I was given to under-

stand that a variety of items were inserted in this national programme for short periods, so much so it almost became a sort of tit-bits, if I may call it so, or *chowcha*. In fact, people who heard it did not have the satisfaction of hearing any one of the items beginning with *kolatta*, *kavya vachana*, *yashagana*, *dasarapada* and so on. Karnataka is teeming with varieties of art. But all the varieties are put together for a period of ten or eight minutes each. We have also to take into consideration the time taken for announcements to be made, once in English and then in Kannada. All these are matters of very great dissatisfaction to the people who heard the programme, and I was requested to bring it to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Several of those items require a larger space of time. People would have enjoyed them. In fact, many wanted those items for a longer time. Therefore, more care has to be taken in picking out items for national programme.

So far as the rural community sets are concerned, I do not think it is a matter of great satisfaction to us to be told that 9,000 sets have been distributed so far, all over the country. We have about six lakhs of villages and almost every village must be supplied with a radio set. We do require that every village should be supplied with a set. Otherwise, it will not be to our satisfaction at all. That being the case, we are far below the requirements and I do not think this is a matter of very great difficulty for the hon. Minister, and the Government to take up and advance in a very rapid pace.

There is one other small point which I wish to make. That is connected with the length of the films of Indian origin—our indigenous films. Many a time it has been felt that our indigenous films are rather too long. They extend to a period of three hours and people would like to have it cut to two hours. I do not think our learned colleague is helpless in this matter, in correcting

[Shri Keshava]

the producers in this regard. Something has got to be done and films also have got to be made to run only for a period of two hours.

With these words, I whole-heartedly support the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I wished to call one other hon. Member. He is not in his seat. So, I would call upon the hon. Minister. I wanted to call Shri Raghunath Singh. He is not in his seat.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): I am in my seat.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He ought to be in his seat when he wants to speak.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत थोड़ा बहना है। क्योंकि समय बहुत कम है। भाल इंडिया रेडियो से जब मैं गाना सुनता हूँ या कोई दूसरी बात सुनता हूँ तो वह मुझे आत्माहीन मालूम पड़ती है। भारतवर्ष की आत्मा काशी में रहती है। जब तक काशी से भाल इंडिया रेडियो का प्रचार नहीं, तब तक उसमें आत्मा नहीं आ सकती। इस लिए आज कल हमें भाल इंडिया रेडियो के बारे में दर्शन के दर्शन तो हो जाते हैं, लेकिन आत्मा के दर्शन नहीं होते। आप देखेंगे कि हमारे यहाँ यू० पी० में दो जगहों पर भाल इंडिया रेडियो की शाखाएँ हैं इलाहाबाद और लखनऊ। इलाहाबाद की शाखा बिल्कुल नहीं चलती। काशी में, हिन्दू हों चाहे सिख हों, बौद्ध हों चाहे जैन हों, सभी के महात्मा और सन्त उत्पन्न हुए हैं। जब कभी हम लोग पाकिस्तान रेडियो सुनते हैं तो पाने हैं कि रोज़ सबेरे मुसलमान, चाहे वह पाकिस्तान के हों या भारत के हों, पाकिस्तान रेडियो सुनते हैं क्योंकि वहाँ से कुरान शरीफ की تلاवत होती है। लेकिन हमारे भाल इंडिया रेडियो से वेद सभी की ध्वनि नहीं सुनाई देती। कहीं से भी सन्तों की आवाज़ सुनने में नहीं आती। गुरु ग्रंथ की आवाज़ सुनने में नहीं आती। इस का केन्द्र कहा हो सकता है? उसका केन्द्र काशी में हो सकता है। जहाँ से हम रविदास की आवाज़

सुन सकते हैं। कबीर की आवाज़ सुन सकते हैं। धीर सुलसीबास की आवाज़ सुन सकते हैं।

इस के साथ ही साथ काशी संगीत का भी केन्द्र है। क्याल, झुंड़, दुमरी और उप्पा, ये जो चार नयोंत हैं, इन का केन्द्र काशी है। संगीत के साथ ही साथ काशी नृत्य का भी केन्द्र है। कबक नृत्य हम सिनेमा में आ कर रोज़ देखते हैं। साम्प्रदायिक आधार पर ज़ेम का केन्द्र काशी है। उत्तर भारत में कबक नृत्य की जीवित रखने के लिए धीर कलाकारों को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि काशी में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जाए।

आप जानते हैं कि साउथ ईस्ट एशिया धीर ईस्टर्न अफ्रीका में धीर दूसरे स्थानों में जहाँ पर हिन्दुस्तानी रहते हैं या बौद्ध धर्मावलम्बी रहते हैं उनके वस्ते भी हमारे यहाँ से फैशन न कुछ प्रमाण होना चाहिए, ताकि उन लोगों से हमारा सम्पर्क कायम रह सके। साउथ ईस्ट एशिया धीर ईस्टर्न अफ्रीका से हमारे सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध हो गये हैं। यहाँ पर काशी सादाद में हिन्दुस्तानी लोग रहते हैं। बर्मा, स्थाय, कम्बोडिया, लाओस, वियतनाम आदि स्थानों में भी बड़ी सादाद में हिन्दुस्तानी रहते हैं। उनसे सम्पर्क कायम रखने के लिए यह निहायत आवश्यक है कि काशी में एक रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित किया जाये ताकि वहाँ से सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम प्रसारित हों। मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि काशी में शीघ्र ही धीर रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित करें। इलाहाबाद का रेडियो स्टेशन बिल्कुल बन्द है। इस वास्ते कि वह चल नहीं सकता। वहाँ पर कोई कलाकार नहीं है। धीर काशी में तो गली गली में कलाकार हैं, गली गली में गाने बाले हैं। गली गली में सन्त और साधु हैं। धीर गली गली में साहित्यिक हैं। वहाँ पर आपको बहुत सस्ती में अच्छे अच्छे कलाकार मिल सकते हैं। जो काशी के कलाकार हैं दिल्ली आने के एक हजार रुपये लेते हैं वे

काशी में पचास और सी रुपये में काम कर सकते हैं। इससे आपकी बड़ी भित्तिबन्धिता भी होगी। जिसकी भाज कल बहुत बर्बादी की जाती है। यदि आप काशी में रेडियो स्टेशन खोलें तो आपको बहुत सस्ते में कलाकार मिल सकते हैं। आपको अच्छे अच्छे गाने और दूसरी अच्छी बातें सुना सकते हैं।

सामवेद के गाने वाले जो पुराने पंडित लोग हैं अब उनका लोप हो रहा है। अब वेद ध्वनि करने वाले लोग कम होते जा रहे हैं। जो पुराने गाने का सिस्टम है वह खत्म होता जा रहा है। मेरी केसकर जी से प्रार्थना है कि इन वेदपाठो पंडितों की ध्वनि रिकार्ड कर ली जाये क्योंकि थोड़े दिन के पश्चात ऐसा कोई गाने बहला नहीं रहेगा। और हम भूल जायेंगे कि कैसे हम साम वेद गाते थे और कैसे दीपक आदि राग गाते थे। इन लोगों की ध्वनि का रिकार्ड करना बहुत आवश्यक है।

मैं धाधा करता हूँ कि केसकर जी, जिनको हम काशी का हो मानते हैं, वे इस ब्याल से और भी बहुत सी बातों के ब्याल से काशी में अवश्य एक रेडियो स्टेशन की स्थापना करें।

मैंने आपको यह भी प्रोपोजल दिया है कि जितना रुपया आपको काशी के रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित करने में लगेगा उसका धाधा रुपया हम चन्दा से वसूल करके आपको दे देंगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : काशी वाले इलाहाबाद में क्यों नहीं आकर काम करते ताकि वह स्टेशन भी बन्द न हो और उनको भी काम मिल जाये।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इलाहाबाद का पानी ठीक नहीं है। वहाँ बिबेणी का पानी है। काशी में एक पानी है। एक पानी का धाध अच्छा होता है।

Dr. Kesar: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I feel a little hesitation in trying to reply within the short space of time to all the points that have been raised by my hon. friends here. It is obvious that within half an hour, it will not be possible to reply effectively and in detail to all the important points that have been raised, and validly raised, by so many hon. Members. I will, therefore, try to take up some of the important points that have been put by Members here.

With your permission, I would like to deal with the smaller points by giving them the information they require sometime later, if I am not able to do so today. I would prefer to take up the points of principle that have been raised here, because it is necessary to clear the minds of hon. Members regarding certain aspects of the subjects with which this Ministry deals.

My hon. friend who spoke very first, raised one or two very important points. The first was that he took the B.B.C. as his ideal. He was speaking about the All India Radio. He said, the B.B.C. is an autonomous body, it is doing good work, it has a fine reputation, unfortunately, there is no autonomy in the All India Radio, and therefore, all the ills that we are seeing, flow from that. This is a subject on which we have had several discussions during budget debates in the year before last. I explained at length the Government point of view regarding this matter.

What is meant by autonomy? Autonomy means, we create a body which will run by itself, over which the Government will keep a distant control. It is easy theoretically to conceive of such a body. But, in practice, in the circumstances prevailing in this country, it is practically impossible to have a body which has to run such an important department. It is not a factory which produces certain things. It has a medium and an important net work which will put forth thousands of hours of all sorts of programmes from the air. First to create a body

[Dr. Keskar]

which will run all this and work it, without any direction excepting some general guidance is, in my opinion, in the present circumstances, not possible. I agree that such a body as the B.B.C. is running well and has, perhaps, been able, on account of the long history of broadcasting in the country, to create and have experienced people who can run the broadcasting net work. For example, such a body would require a Board of directors of the highest calibre, who know how to run it well. I am afraid, we will not be able, at least, we have not been able to think of a group of people to whom such an important organisation can be entrusted to run it well so that we can be free of care and it will be running by itself well and smoothly.

Shri Dasappa: What about the National Broadcasting Corporation of America?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid, the National Broadcasting Corporation of America is a body of businessmen. It is not a cultural or educational body. It runs broadcasting for profit and it has got its programmes mainly geared for that purpose. I am mentioning the point of autonomy. There is another danger which Members of Parliament have to take care of. In our country broadcasting is in an early stage. It is only during the last 10 years after Independence that it has built itself up. I am glad that it has been able to build itself up so quickly. It will be some time before it stabilises itself. In this very delicate period, it will not be proper to allow the organisation to run wrong. A factory, if it runs wrong, can be corrected easily. But, if such an important and delicate organisation goes on wrong lines, it will be very difficult to retrieve the position so easily, as we may be able to do in any other organisation. Because, non. Members should remember that when broadcasting is run by the Government, it is continuously under the

supervision of Parliament, day in and day out, all the 24 hours. Members can put questions about anything that is happening there. They will not be very happy if autonomy comes. Frankly speaking, I think it would be very good for Government because, then, detailed Parliamentary interrogation will not be there. We will have an organisation like, for example, the Sindri or Bhilai plants. It will run by itself. Naturally, Government supervision will be there. Because, Government pays the money and it will have to see that it is well spent. Parliamentary control which is there all the 24 hours of the day now, will no more be there.

An Hon. Member: You will be there

Dr. Keskar: When the Government pays the money, it will have to supervise as closely as possible as far as the financial aspect is concerned. I hope, therefore, that Members, before they rush in for autonomy, would think well before they allow the daily parliamentary control to be taken away and substitute it by an effective control by Government but a lessened and distant parliamentary control. I do not think that in the present state of affairs, the vigilant and daily parliamentary control should be relaxed as far as broadcasting is concerned. It is possible that once our broadcasting system is stabilised, and it develops, and if we feel under those circumstances that it can be made into an autonomous body and there need not be a day-to-day look into it by Parliament, then certainly we can do so, but I do not think the time has yet come.

The hon. Member who spoke first made a reference to the question of Station Directors being appointed from outside in States where they are not residents, and, therefore, their not knowing the language of the State concerned. I agree with him that this is so, and it is no doubt very unfortunate. At the same time, we have to remember that if we

have a permanent service, and a cadre, and that cadre is interchangeable, and these persons can be transferred from one place to another, it is impossible to have Station Directors in such exact proportion that every time we shall be able to post a man who knows the local language well. It is also, I think, not practical to expect a Station Director to know a dozen languages. We can certainly encourage them to know two or three languages, but it is not possible that all of them will be so good linguists that they will know many languages at the same time.

But I do agree that it is a disadvantage. We have tried to overcome that disadvantage to offset it by having a production staff of very high quality to help the Station Director, wherever he is concerned. The hon. Member himself paid a tribute to the high quality of the producers who have been appointed there, but at the same time, he made a contradictory statement saying that these were among the most eminent people in literature in Kerala, but since coming into Government service, their brilliance or their genius appeared to have gone out, probably because the hon. Member himself is a little biased in this matter. He thinks that Government is tainted, and anybody who comes near that Government is also tainted. But I am not able to agree with him. I feel that the broadcasting organisation should as its duty get the best literary and musical geniuses and persons of our country into the organisation.

Shri Warier (Trichur) With your permission, I may be allowed to inform the hon. Minister that the genius of those artists went down precisely because of the conflict between the Station Director there and these people. That was the point made by my hon. friend.

Dr. Keshkar: I have heard the point carefully, and I have also noted it down. I might say that this is only hearsay. The hon. Member's opinion

is that they have become useless because they are in the broadcasting organisation. I am unable to accept his allegation, because, after all, he tells me that they have told him so. I am certainly going to ask them as to whether they have told him so. But I regret I cannot accept it. I have also had occasion to meet these persons very frequently, and that is not at least my impression.

The third point which he mentioned, casually, was that it was as if it was the accepted principle with Government that AIR was an organ for Government publicity. The All India Radio has never considered itself to be an organ of Government publicity. Their first objective is to give programmes to the public with a view to entertainment, cultural development and education. Government publicity comes in incidentally, only when the question of national development schemes are concerned.

Then, the point was raised by Shri Bimal Ghose also that it was not right for a broadcasting organisation that they should do publicity for Government, and that it was really publicity for one party. I am unable to agree with him. He was saying it on the basis or on the principles of parliamentary democracy. In parliamentary democracy, if he carefully considers it, whatever the Government expresses and whatever is accepted by Parliament is national policy and national action, it is no more a party action. As long as it is a proposal before Parliament and it is not accepted, it can certainly be considered to be a party proposal and not a national proposal. Once it is accepted, this House and the other House has accepted it, certainly it is a national proposal.

I take the example of the Five Year Plan. They might consider that the Five Year Plan publicity or its development helps the party in power. It is possibly true. At the same time the Five Year Plan is not

[Dr. Keskar]

the Plan of the party any more. The moment it is accepted by Parliament it becomes a national plan and it becomes the property of all the citizens of the State. Therefore I would not agree with Mr. Ghose when he says that explaining Government proposals or Government decisions and such other things is party propaganda.

Incidentally he was mentioning, as an example, the election question. Now I might inform the House that just before the elections express orders were passed for the All India Radio that during elections, from the moment the process of election begins till the end, no speech of any Minister at any meeting, whether it is an election meeting or non-election meeting, shall be reported or broadcast by the All India Radio, unless at any particular meeting which was not for election, some reference is made to some important problem of international politics. And if hon. Members take the trouble of going through the programmes of that time they will find that no speech had been referred even in the news bulletin of All India Radio which had anything to do with elections. The Radio tried to keep itself above party politics.

My hon. friend there had raised many other questions. I will take them up together with other points raised by friends. But I will leave it for the moment and turn to the points raised by Mr. Ghose. Mr. Ghose is very much against the Central Government's policy of over-centralisation. I have not yet understood his point. I do not know what exactly he means. Does he mean that as far as publicity and radio are concerned we should have autonomous units in the various regions and they should be allowed to function separately under a general guidance, or he wants that we should hand over the units to the various States. But as far as administration is concerned, I am afraid that if we

go according to what he has suggested, we will certainly not have a really coordinated radio net work all over the country. We will have a number of radios all over the country which will instead of working in a coordinated and united way go their own way and will create complete confusion. It will, in my opinion, not at all be something beneficial to the development of the radio in our country.

There are certain points in which I agree with him. I agree, for example, that it would be well if publicity that we want is carried out through the agency of the State Governments. But, in fact, today we are carrying it out through the State Governments. Directly there is no publicity work done by the Central Government, excepting in a very incidental way, in the States and whatever is done is done in complete cooperation with the State Governments. There is no doubt whatsoever that it will be impossible for the Centre to do any sort of publicity in any State unless the cooperation of the State Governments is forthcoming and we are devising all sorts of measures to see that the coordination with the State Governments becomes more and more closer.

In fact reference was made to the State Ministers' Conference. He will be pleased to know—I am sorry he is not here—that the coordination does not consist only in passing resolutions. It is something more than that. We have regular discussions with the State Governments and their Directors of Publicity and we try to entrust as large an amount of publicity work to the States as we can. I am happy to state that co-ordination is definitely far better and closer today than it was about two or three years ago. I am sure that it will go on growing closer during the coming years also.

There is also the question referred to by Shri Heda, of commercial broadcasting I will come to that at the end as two or three other Members had raised it.

The hon lady Member from Andhra Pradesh who spoke, spoke very eloquently. I have full sympathy for her and for the wishes she has expressed. I wish that some other people who have had experience in their line become Members of Parliament for then we would get a first-hand experience narrated here. That will bring the Members in more human touch with what is happening in particular units or stations.

She has narrated the hard lot of various persons working, whether as Programme Assistants or as Staff Artists. More especially she has described in detail the working of Vijayawada station. I might tell her that I have full sympathy for the PAs and Staff artists. She is not correct when she says that nothing is being done for the Staff Artists. In fact, during the last two or three years, we have evolved a scheme for some kind of gratuity for the Staff Artists. As far as PAs are concerned, I do not want to go over old ground because two or three years back, we have been dealing with it. Last time I recounted what we have done to regularise all the cadres of Programme Assistants, Programme Executives and other permanent staff of AIR. I might only inform the House that the regularisation is now complete. In fact, every Programme Assistant who is working in AIR is now either on the way to quasi-permanency or to permanency, and all the rules and regulations thereof have now been completely laid down. Therefore, in future, there will be no difficulty. Whatever difficulty there was in old times was due to the fact that recruitment had taken place in different ways for the same post. There were certain difficulties. For example, the Home Ministry regulations or an

ancial regulations came in the way. Now all that has been smoothened out and in future, there will be no difficulty.

I am noting very carefully what she has said about Vijayawada station. I can certainly promise her that whatever she has said will be looked into very carefully.

She was very eloquent on Andhra culture. I am not behind anybody in being a great appreciator of Andhra culture and the Andhra people. I might inform the House that Andhra Pradesh, being one of the biggest States in India, is certainly getting its due share in the development of broadcasting in the country. We have recently raised the power of Vijayawada station to 20 kw, and we will soon have in Hyderabad a powerful 10 kw shortwave transmitter which will make it audible throughout the whole of South India. With the expansion of programmes in Hyderabad and Vijayawada, there will soon be a bigger and more comprehensive programme structure at both places. I hope, therefore, that she will not accuse me, as she seemed to be doing, that I am lagging in doing justice to the Andhras.

Moreover, I know that the Andhras are not the people who will take it lying down if some injustice is done to them.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the hon Minister tell me whether he is going to raise the amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid no sums are allocated to States. I am therefore at a loss to know what sum she is referring to. We do not allocate any sums to any States. It may be given to particular stations for their development work. But I have noted the figures she has mentioned. I will enquire and let her know.

My hon friend, Shrimati Uma Nehru was very nice and she was at the same time, very critical that somehow or other women were not getting a fair deal in the AIR.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: She gave her reasons also.

Dr. Kekar: I am afraid that this is not fair because after all women will require a fair share in the A.I.R. They should not have more than a fair share and I think if there is any Department of Government where women are working, the A.I.R. has the largest percentage excepting, probably, the telephone section of the P. & T. I think in no other department so many women are employed from its very beginning and the number is increasing. She was complaining about the proportion of women or the percentage of women in the permanent service and more especially in the higher cadre. That is not something which I can help because the permanent establishment are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission and it is very difficult for me to intervene. I will certainly pass it on to the U.P.S.C.

My friend, Shri Bhakt Darshan has talked about the Press Commission. We had laid, I think, some six months back another statement before the House in which we had given the latest position as far as the recommendations of the Press Commission which have been implemented by Government are concerned. It is difficult for me to add anything to it except the question of the Press Council Bill. I never said, nor was it rightly reported that Government has dropped the Bill. The Government could not bring it before this House because there was no time available and the Bill unfortunately lapsed. Otherwise, we would certainly have got it passed.

On the other hand, during this period, certain differences have arisen regarding the structure of the Press Council, which formerly did not exist. I will certainly see that these differences are narrowed down to the farthest limit before we bring it again before the Lok Sabha.

Shri Keshava: What about the Allahabad Radio?

Dr. Kekar: Otherwise, I do not see any recommendation of the Press Commission which requires Government action still remaining unfulfilled.

For example, the question was raised about the ownership of papers. What has Government done about it? I had explained when the Press Commission's Report was debated here that this is not something which the Commission expected the Government to take action upon. In fact, the Report is clear about it. Certainly, the Commission expected that among the number of measures which will be taken a condition will be created when it will be possible for Government to take further action in the matter. For the time being, I do not think there is anything which the Government can directly do. Neither do I think was it the intention of the Press Commission.

My hon. friend, Shri Harvani had also raised the same question that Government had not carried out the Press Commission's recommendations. I think he is a little unfair to Government. I do not, and I repeat what I said last time, think there is any report whose recommendations have been implemented so quickly and so energetically as those of the Press Commission. I think Members should show, instead of criticism, some appreciation of the way in which Government has tried to carry out as far as possible the recommendations of the Commission.

Certainly, there are a few things which, probably, not through legislation but otherwise can be done and we will look into them.

He was very critical of the A.I.R. He has raised a number of things. I would like to deal with all the questions raised about the A.I.R. within a few minutes together if you permit me as it will not be possible to reply to every individual criticism separately.

18 hrs.

As far as Allahabad is concerned, the question of rivalry between Allahabad and Banaras is in my opinion not something which now can be voted upon, because I have full sympathy for the cause pleaded by Shri Raghunath Singh. There is no doubt that Banaras is a great cultural centre in India but, at the same time, there is a station in Allahabad, and it would not be very practicable for us to start a station 75 miles from Allahabad which will mean additional recurring expenditure for nothing.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): You have two stations in Andhra; why don't you have two here?

Dr. Keskar: There are two in U.P.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Allahabad is not working.

Dr. Keskar: That is not correct. However I do not want to come between the quarrel between Allahabad and Banaras; that would not be proper.

Shri Bahadur Singh raised a question about our journals. I might say that the journals that we publish on behalf of the various ministries are not our journals. We publish the journals on behalf of the ministries. We are only the publishing medium. The journals are guided by the ministries concerned. With regard to many journals the Ministry concerned even pays us the expenses for publishing those journals. Why I am pointing out this is, it would be very difficult for me to do anything excepting to convey it to the Ministry concerned as to what should and should not be done regarding these various journals. We certainly can give advice; for example, that the expenditure on a particular journal is too much. We can and do draw attention to such matters, and give some suggestions, but ultimately it is the Ministry concerned that is responsible and not ourselves. Therefore, some of the defects that he might have pointed out are there, no doubt, but for certain reasons the ministries consider that the journals should be there, and it

appears to me that it will not be proper for me to put pressure on them to stop such journals. I will certainly convey the criticism that has been voiced here to the ministries concerned.

In the end I would like to take up one or two general points because certain important points have been raised. I will come to one very important point, and that is about commercial broadcasting. Two or three Members here referred to it. I also hear that a pamphlet has been distributed to all Members of Parliament by the forum of free enterprise regarding this question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have not seen.

Dr. Keskar: There is a pamphlet, I have seen it myself. My esteemed friend Shri Heda referred to it.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I have got that pamphlet here.

Dr. Keskar: I would like to explain this matter again, although it has already been explained on the floor of the House before. Briefly I might say that regarding commercial broadcasting the propaganda is mainly led by advertising interests in the country. There is nothing improper about it. They are entitled to carry on this kind of propaganda. This has also been discussed many times in Parliament and we have replied to it. I will only recapitulate the reasons why we think it is neither proper nor beneficial for us to have commercial broadcasting.

Firstly, there is no doubt whatever that with commercial broadcasting the standard of programmes will go down. When I say standard of programmes, I do not mean to say high-brow programmes; there is no such question; we do not want high-brow programmes, they should be popular, simple and everything. When you have commercial advertisements interspersed, you will have to bring down the programme to the level that the advertiser wants, and when the level comes down a time will come when the advertiser will tell you what sort of

[Dr. 'Kekar]

programme you will have to put on the air in order that this advertisement becomes attractive. This can be verified from the experience of the United States of America and also the new T.V. in Great Britain. I have today with me a detailed newspaper report from a British newspaper about America's Commission for cleaning advertising abuses from the radio and television in the United States. They are already prosecuting a number of people for putting in indecent advertisements in television asking them why this should not be cleaned up in a more drastic way. The United States, of course, is completely free, but even there, where all these interests are very strong, Government are now forced to take some steps to see that these advertisers observe a certain amount of decency, not even a standard but decency. Therefore, there is no doubt that our standard of programmes will go down. I do agree that in the beginning it might not be so, but once we have to depend partially or wholly on a revenue which comes from advertisement, we will have to do what they like or go in the direction that they want.

Another matter in this connection has to be remembered. Advertising in India is not in the same position as advertising in Great Britain or in America. Here, our advertisements are predominantly foreign; foreign means predominantly British and American. Of course, if it were predominantly Russian also, it would make no difference. What I mean is, it is foreign and if today we allow commercial broadcasting, and we come to depend on these advertisements for our radio programmes, you will find that slowly our radio will come under the grip of advertising interests which are mainly controlled by foreign interests. I do not think that from any point of view this would be a very desirable state of affairs for the country. You can go to the newspapers and you will find that even newspapers privately complain of the grip that those advertisers

have got on them. They do not publicly complain about it but they have to depend on them. I think it would not be a good day for broadcasting in this country if it has to depend on advertising and advertising interests in order to carry on its programmes.

The other important point regarding this to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members is this. Does experience in other countries show that commercial advertising or commercial broadcasting is favoured? You will find that it is not so. The only country in which commercial broadcasting exists is the United States of America. In the United States, you know, broadcasting is a business. It is not an organisation which is used for cultural or other purposes. It is used mainly as a business for profit. I do not mean to blame them, because it has grown and evolved in that country as a business and as an independent business. If you go to other important countries in the world—Great Britain, Soviet Russia—you will not find a single country having commercial broadcasting in its national network. It exists in no other country.

Then I am immediately confronted with Ceylon. There are in Europe small countries like Luxemburg or Andorre, Monaco (Monte Carlo) which have begun commercial broadcasting. I do not put them in the category of countries. But, if you take any sizeable country in Europe which has got a worthwhile radio network, you will find that none of them touch commercial broadcasting. Why, because they know they will not be able to maintain any standard in broadcasting if they allow commercial broadcasting to come in.

You might be interested to know that the problem that my friend put before me—of Radio Ceylon—is a problem which is also faced by the broadcasting systems of France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, etc., from Radio Luxemburg and Radio Monte Carlo. They are facing it. They are

a little annoyed with it but they know they cannot do anything. But, at the same time, they are not saying, and nobody is saying there, that because Radio Luxemburg is putting in this, therefore, let us follow Radio Luxemburg. Nobody says that. It is only in India that people say that because Radio Ceylon is going a particular way let us follow Radio Ceylon.

Here comes the fundamental question as to what should be the objective of the radio. Is it going to be a commercial profit-making business with some kind of entertainment thrown in, or, is it going to be a medium for entertainment, culture and education? As far as I am concerned, and the Government is concerned, the answer is clear. We do not think, more especially in a country like India which is trying to turn itself into a welfare State, that the radio can be made into a commercial profit-making business with some little entertainment in order to make the profit bigger. I do not agree that we can accept that objective. If we take the question of Radio Ceylon, I might put a few facts regarding Radio Ceylon before hon. Members. It is put before us as an example. May I say it is a bad example? It is not a good example.

First of all, it is not right to say something about a neighbouring country, with which we are very friendly. But I might say that the action of Radio Ceylon in beaming commercial broadcasting services exclusively for this country is not very proper, because we have got certain conventions which Commonwealth broadcasting organisations observe. No other country has done this kind of beaming of commercial services exclusively for another country. We have brought this to the notice of the Government of Ceylon. You will be surprised to note that these commercial programmes are mainly meant for India and not for Ceylon. In fact, Radio Ceylon has banned commercial programmes for Sinhalese public after 5-30 in the

evening; they are only meant for India.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara). On the last occasion, I drew the Minister's attention as to what steps Government were taking in regard to Indian firms and foreign firms operating in India who advertise on Radio Ceylon.

Dr. Keekar: I will come to that. Let us analyse it. I, personally, do not think that the so-called programmes which broadcast advertisements mixed with a little entertainment can be called radio broadcasts. I really call them commercial publicity shows. It is nothing more, there is little of real radio. There are film songs interspersed with advertisements. I personally decline to call this a radio programme. It is nothing but a publicity show, it is not a regular radio programme.

But we are faced with difficulties in this country, because there are people here who are interested in having advertisements on Radio Ceylon and giving profit to the advertising industry and who spread exaggerated reports of Radio Ceylon's greatness and the magnificent things that it is doing, its popularity with the public, etc. we are not impervious to what is being said in the public. We have also carried out an analysis of Radio Ceylon in the country and you will be rather interested to know that broadly speaking, taking the country as a whole, we find it is not so popular as some hon. Members try to make it out.

You will be amused to hear that, generally speaking, in most households, it is the children who want Radio Ceylon, none of the grown-ups want it. It is no doubt true that in certain cities like Bombay and Delhi, there is a certain class of listeners who would like such a thing. Naturally, there are all sorts of people in the world, but taking the country as a whole, I do not agree that the popularity of Radio Ceylon has grown so much as to make hon. Members fear for broadcasting in this country.

[Dr Kesar]

Lastly, because Radio Ceylon is putting out commercial shows which a number of people listen to in this country, is no reason why we should imitate them. I do not agree with that thesis. I think the right thing would be for us to try to give some attractive programmes of good standard to the public. I may take this occasion to inform the House that very soon, we will have, most probably by the last week of September, an All-India variety programme broadcast by very powerful transmitters, which can be listened to in any part of the country and which will be mainly light programme and for the entertainment of the community at large. I think that is our answer to Radio Ceylon and not commercial broadcasting.

I have taken too much of your time. Because this question has been raised by a number of hon. Members, I felt that unless a reply was given in detail, some misunderstanding might be there. I have not been able to say anything regarding a number of other matters that have been raised. I am exceedingly sorry that time has been exceeded, but I might inform those friends that I have noted down all their points and I will give them a satisfactory reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do I have permission of the House to put all the cut motions to the Demands Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121 to vote.

Some Hon. Members: Yes

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order

Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of the following heads of demands entered in the second column thereof:—

Demands Nos. 64, 65, 66 and 121."

The motion was adopted

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed]

DEMAND No 64—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No 65—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,21,60,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 56—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,02,44,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous' Depart-

ments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,34,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow. 18.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 9th August, 1957.

DAILY DIGEST

[Thursday, 8th August 1957].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS..

S. Q. Nos.	Subject	COLUMNS
698	Indo-Pakistan Financial Issues	7461-63
699	Panna Diamond Mines	7463-66
700	Fiscal Monopolies	7466-68
701	Pay Scales Revision	7468-69
702	Deferred Payments Exchange Guarantee Scheme	7469
729	Imports on Deferred Payments	7470-73
704	Remittance of Profits	7473-76
705	Expansion of Manipur Rifles	7476
707	Smuggling	7476-78
708	Stainless Steel	7478-79
709	Prohibition	7479-82
710	Kerala Education Bill	7482-85
711	Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur	7485
712	Report on Rural Institutes	7485-86
413	Taxation Reform	7486-87
714	Expansion of Technical Education in States	7487-90
715	Staff Quarters of Central Excise Department	7490-92
716	Western Zonal Council	7492-93
717	Import of Steel	7493

S. N.

Q. No.

6 Admission in Delhi Colleges 7494-96

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS .

S. Q. Nos.	Subject	COLUMNS
703	Aid to Political Sufferers	7496-97
709	Konark Temple	7497
718	Inter State Sales Tax	7498
719	Opium Factory, Gazipur	7498-99
720	Training-cum-Production Centre at Jhargram	7499-7500
721	Training Centre at Kothagudem	7500
722	Industrial Management	7500-01

S. Q. Nos. Subject COLUMNS

723	Western Higher Technological Institute, Bombay	7501
754	Central Pool of Administrative Officers	7501-02
725	Legal Aid	7502
726	Inter-Services Historical Section	7502-03
727	Death of I.A.F. Officers in U. K.	7503
728	Leakage of Budget Proposals	7504
730	Finds Near Malarip	7504
731	Eastern Frontier Rifles	7504-05
732	Mineral Areas	7505
733	Displaced Persons in Andaman Islands	7506
734	State Bank of India	7506
735	Grants to Affiliated Colleges	7507
736	Restrictions on Advances against Stocks of Sugar	7507-08
737	Government of India Scholarships	7508
738	Cultural Relations with Poland	7509
73h	Economic aid from U. S. A.	7509

U. S. Q. Nos

526	Loans to Industrial Undertakings	7509-10
527	Salaries of Primary Teachers in Andhra	7510
528	Educational Institutions in Rajasthan	7510
530	Grants for Scientific Research to Rajputana University	7510-11
531	Multi-purpose Schools in Rajasthan	7511
532	Excavations at Ratnagiri	7511
533	Appointment of Assistants	7511-12
534	Area under Tobacco Cultivation in Parbhani District	7512
535	Income Tax	7512-13
536	Coal Supply to Punjab	7513-14

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—contd.

U.S. Q. Nos.	Subject	COLUMNS
537	Smuggling on Goa Border	7514-15
538	Cantonment Boards Employees	7515
539	Income Tax	7515-16
540	Political Organizations	7516
541	Fuel Plant at Kothagudem	7516-17
542	Opium	7517
543	Appointment of Relatives of Officers in Private Firms	7517
544	Property Statements	7518
545	State Bank of India	7518
546	Manipur Rifles	7518-19
547	Medical Treatment	7519
548	Employees in Private Sector	7519-20
549	Indian Police Training Centre	7520
550	Scholarships for Scheduled Castes Students	7521
551	Grants for Technical Education	7521
552	Authority for Secondary Education	7522
553	All India Tribal Conference	7522
554	Mountain Training, Mysore	7522-23
555	Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	7523
556	Bhojpuri Language	7523
557	Personal Staff of Ministers	7524
558	Foreign Scholarships to Indian Nationals	7524
559	I.A.S. Emergency Recruitment	7525
560	Aid to Non-Official Organisations	7525
561	Recruitment	7525-26
562	Missing Persons Squad	7526
563	Acquisition of land	7526-27
564	Appointment of Assistants	7527
565	Scheduled Castes etc. in Educational Institutions of Tripura	7527-28
566	Fees in Himachal Pradesh Schools	7528-29
567	Tobacco	7529
568	Primary Education	7530

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru)

7530-32

Subject

COLUMNS

made a statement regarding the notices of impending stoppages of work in various essential services . .

Later during the day the Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri) informed the House that the notices of strike by P. & T. employees had been withdrawn

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.. 7533

A copy of the Essential Services, Maintenance Ordinance, 1957 promulgated by the President on the 7th August, 1957, under Article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution .

A copy of the First Annual Report on the working of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi together with the audited statement of Accounts for the year ended the 30th September, 1956 .

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE 7534-35

Shri S. M. Banerjee called the attention of the Minister of Finance to the termination of services of many Inspectors under the Life Insurance Corporation after the introduction of new appointment letters retrospectively from the 1st September, 1956 .

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat) made a statement in regard thereto

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS..7535- 7686

Further discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Transport and Communications concluded and the Demands were voted in full.

Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were also discussed and voted in full.

AGENDA FOR FRIDAY, 9th AUGUST, 1957...

Consideration and Passing of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill; Consideration of the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Private Members' Bills.